Yahoo Group Archive:
SAR_APRS

These Yahoo Groups messages were archived in WARC format by ArchiveTeam in 2018. This PDF was generated by Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications from the WARC files in 2026.

Date span: 2006-07-08 through 2015-06-24

Source WARC: sar_aprs.0WCwvQN.warc.gz

Source item: https://archive.org/details/yahoo-groups-2018-02-07T22-29-02Z-2af829

Messages included in this PDF: 932

Yahoo replaced the domain portions of email addresses with @... in the archived messages. Characters lost in Yahoo's archived text appear as ?.

Messages are presented in ascending Yahoo message-ID order. Gaps indicate records absent from the source WARC or messages omitted from this PDF as spam.

1. Welcome

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-07-08 21:40:22 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 1 Message: 1

This group has been established as a resource to develop and promote
the use of APRS in Search and Rescue operations. Any information
related to successful trials or deployment of APRS in the SAR
community is welcomed.

Mike Heil
K6MAH
Solano County ACS/RACES Radio Officer
Civil Air Patrol SAR IC and Ground Team Leader

2. APRS Software

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-07-08 21:43:45 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 2 Message: 2

For what it is worth I am currently using APRS Point software. This software allows you to plot locations of APRS equipped assets using Microsoft Map Point software. The developer has a reasonable cost for acquiring the APRS software along with Map Point if you do not allready own it.

You can find a description of the software on their web site: http://www.aprspoint.com/

I will let you know what I think when I have had time to play with it.

Mike

3. APRS Trackers - Tiny Track

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-07-08 21:48:15 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 3 Message: 3

These are an interesting way to interface GPS with radios. I own three of them. I have seen them used for ground team applications as well as mobile applications. One design I am aware of uses a Tiny Track, battery, GPS and hand held transceiver mounted in a plastic box to provide a fully portable APRS transceiver arrangement. The plastic box has magnets attached to the bottom. In this configuration the box and a mag mount antenna can quickly be attached to a vehicle (and moved between vehicles) to allow them to be tracked by APRS software.

Mike

http://www.byonics.com/tinytrak/

4. APRS SAR article link

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-07-08 21:57:58 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 4 Message: 4

http://nwaprs.info/sar.htm

5. APRS Track example

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-07-08 22:04:02 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 5 Message: 5

I have uploaded a JPEG of an APRS track of a CAP aircraft that folows the aircraft from the search base to a grid and back. You can see the track the aircraft took through the grid. The JPEG is a map with the CAP 15 Minute grid plan overlay.

Mike

6. Re: APRS SAR article link

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-09-25 16:30:36 UTC
From: we7u
Topic: 4 Message: 6

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Mike Heil" <maheil@...> wrote:
>
> http://nwaprs.info/sar.htm
>

Huh. Since I wrote most of the page, perhaps I should say hi here too!

Curt, WE7U. Xastir/SmartPalm developer (open-source APRS applications), SAR member in Snohomish County, WA, TinyTrak-I/II beta-tester, OpenTracker/Tracker2 beta-tester, currently wiring up Tracker2's and HamHUD's as my fun projects.

Hi Mike and Kevin! Small group here eh?

Seen this?

http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/aprs_capabilities.html

BTW: I've been adding SAR features to Xastir for quite some time. It's open-source, therefore $0.00.

http://www.xastir.org

--Curt, WE7U

7. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: APRS SAR article link

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-09-26 01:17:31 UTC
From: maheil
Topic: 4 Message: 7

Curt:

Thanks for the message and the links. I hope you don't mind that we posted your article. The group has been a bit slow getting off the ground, but we are making some progress. We are working toward a working demo for our ESRT or SAR teams.

Thanks again.

Mike

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of we7u
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2006 9:31 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: APRS SAR article link

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroup <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com> s.com, "Mike Heil" <maheil@...> wrote:
>
> http://nwaprs. <http://nwaprs.info/sar.htm> info/sar.htm
>

Huh. Since I wrote most of the page, perhaps I should say hi here too!

Curt, WE7U. Xastir/SmartPalm developer (open-source APRS applications), SAR member in Snohomish County, WA, TinyTrak-I/II beta-tester, OpenTracker/Tracker2 beta-tester, currently wiring up Tracker2's and HamHUD's as my fun projects.

Hi Mike and Kevin! Small group here eh?

Seen this?

http://www.eskimo. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/aprs_capabilities.html> com/~archer/aprs_capabilities.html

BTW: I've been adding SAR features to Xastir for quite some time. It's open-source, therefore $0.00.

http://www.xastir. <http://www.xastir.org> org

--Curt, WE7U

8. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: APRS SAR article link

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-09-26 01:35:49 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 4 Message: 8

On Mon, 25 Sep 2006, maheil wrote:

> Thanks for the message and the links. I hope you don't mind that we posted
> your article.

Heck no! I created that page so that people would have the
information at their fingertips, and so that others could contribute
to the page so that we all could learn.

> The group has been a bit slow getting off the ground, but we
> are making some progress. We are working toward a working demo for our ESRT
> or SAR teams.

I really wow'ed one of our main SAR deputies at one mock search,
even though only about 1/2 of the people trackers and 1/2 of the
mobile trackers actually worked. A demo is a powerful thing. I
have a writeup about it in case anyone is interested in the details:

http://wetnet.net/~we7u

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

9. Topo: Extract waypoints/routes/tracks/etc

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-09-26 15:56:34 UTC
From: we7u
Topic: 9 Message: 9

I posted this to another list but thought people might be interested here too:

Gpsbabel can now extract the USER-contributed info from Topo *.tpo files in any of the formats that gpsbabel can normally write to (and there are many). This works for Topo 2.x and 3.x version files. Previously it only worked for 2.x files. This new capability is only in the very latest gpsbabel code, it might not appear in any binary releases yet.

This extraction/conversion works for Topo files that users have contributed to the National Geographic mapXchange site, so you can download trails that others have uploaded for your area, then put them into your GPS or on top of your maps.

I've personally been extracting data into GPX-format files, then running a script to process them into Shapefiles maps, but that's just one method of playing with the data. I overlay them onto aerial photos, street maps, or topo maps in Xastir.

Please note that this does not extract the base maps in any way, just the user-saved data (that they put on top of their maps via the mouse/keyboard or GPS downloads). There are no copyright problems with doing any of this.

Gpsbabel is open-source and free for the download. It's on sourceforge.net

--Curt, WE7U.

10. Re: APRS SAR article link

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-13 17:05:01 UTC
From: we7u
Topic: 4 Message: 10

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Curt Mills <archer@...> wrote:
>
> On Mon, 25 Sep 2006, maheil wrote:
>
> > Thanks for the message and the links. I hope you don't mind that we posted
> > your article.

I re-read the postings again. I messed up! Dave Dobbins, K7GPS, a friend of mine and a real mover up here w.r.t. APRS wrote that page, not me. Here's the page I was thinking about that is definitely of interest to the group. It's a Wiki page, so feel free to contribute to it:

http://wiki.ampr2.net/nwaprs/SearchAndRescue

11. New links added plus direction of group

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-13 17:48:15 UTC
From: we7u
Topic: 11 Message: 11

I added the before-mentioned links to the links section for this group, plus a few others that you should find interesting and applicable. It's nice to have them in one place instead of hunting for them.

Question on this group: What do you people think of taking it to a higher level? I was thinking of posting the group info on some of the major APRS and/or SAR-related lists to drum up a bunch of new activity. We need a one-stop shop for discussing these sorts of issues instead of having bits and pieces of it strewn across many other mailing lists. Say the word and I'll engage.

12. Electricity Generating Backpack

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-13 19:35:22 UTC
From: we7u
Topic: 12 Message: 12

I figure since you have a backpack as the main image for the group that you might like this:

http://www.livescience.com/technology/050908_backpack_power.html

This guy at a university is able to generate up to 7.4 watts of power by just walking with this backpack on. Enough to power electronic devices and such continuously.

I thought it interesting at least.

Curt, WE7U.

13. Re: New links added plus direction of group

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-15 10:33:17 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 11 Message: 13

Given the traffic we have seen so far, I don't think that is a bad idea. The original intent of the group was a focus on our efforts in the county, but we can always learn from others.

Before we go forward, what do you think Kevin?

Mike

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "we7u" <archer@...> wrote:
>
> I added the before-mentioned links to the links section for this
> group, plus a few others that you should find interesting and
> applicable. It's nice to have them in one place instead of hunting
> for them.
>
> Question on this group: What do you people think of taking it to a
> higher level? I was thinking of posting the group info on some of
> the major APRS and/or SAR-related lists to drum up a bunch of new
> activity. We need a one-stop shop for discussing these sorts of
> issues instead of having bits and pieces of it strewn across many
> other mailing lists. Say the word and I'll engage.
>

14. Re: Electricity Generating Backpack

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-15 10:39:14 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 12 Message: 14

I like it. One of the reasons I chose the backpack picture was the problem of how do you provide APRS for ground team members? Where do you attached the GPS, radio, power etc. In effect does the team member who is "tagged" carry two radios, one for APRS one for normal voice? Do we do APRS on the SAR frequency along with voice?

For Solano County we have three or four types of SAR teams, that we would equip with APRS trackers. 1. Ground teams (one per group or all members?), the ATV Team (a package on the quads and the Argo), the Jeep or 4x4 team and the county SAR vehicles and the equestrian team. There may be a fifth depending on if you count K-9 teams with the ground teams or not. They are in essence their own specialty team for us.

Mike

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "we7u" <archer@...> wrote:
>
> I figure since you have a backpack as the main image for the group
> that you might like this:
>
> http://www.livescience.com/technology/050908_backpack_power.html
>
> This guy at a university is able to generate up to 7.4 watts of
> power by just walking with this backpack on. Enough to power
> electronic devices and such continuously.
>
> I thought it interesting at least.
>
> Curt, WE7U.
>

15. Mapping Software

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-15 10:50:31 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 15 Message: 15

I would be curious to know what mapping software our Solano County members have and what is being used by different groups, especially in California.

I know everyone has their favaorites, but at some point we probably need to standardize and make sure our standard can be supported by surrounding mutual aid entities. Right now I am leaning toward Maptech Terrain Navigator Pro, but I also own alot of Dolorme software. I believe here in California at least one other county, Santa Clara, uses Maptech software. This is probably a basic question we need to clarify also with our own ESRT Ground Team types.

I am also interested in the mechanics of how the mapping software is being deployed. Are people using real time plots or saving trails to disk or memory stick and then plotting after the fact? Which programs are you doing which operations with?

Also I believe what I preceive to be a popular SAR APRS program, DMAPPER, only appears to be able to track eight trackers at a time. Will this be an issue for Solano? How have other groups using this software made out?

Last comment for Solano County is that good or bad, by default we are probably a Windows shop, given the County and Member resources. I know this may not set well with the Linux supporters and is probably not a decision based on the "best" operating system, but I am being realistic.

Mike

16. Re: [SAR_APRS] Mapping Software

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-16 02:36:34 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 15 Message: 16

On Sun, 15 Oct 2006, Mike Heil wrote:

> I am also interested in the mechanics of how the mapping software is
> being deployed. Are people using real time plots or saving trails
> to disk or memory stick and then plotting after the fact? Which
> programs are you doing which operations with?

We're using them mostly only for planning purposes, not for snagging
GPS trails.

> Last comment for Solano County is that good or bad, by default we
> are probably a Windows shop, given the County and Member resources.
> I know this may not set well with the Linux supporters and is
> probably not a decision based on the "best" operating system, but I
> am being realistic.

As far as commercial mapping, Windows would be the only choice. If
one wanted to go the Unix/Linux route you'd have to go with either
ESRI software (big $$) or public domain maps (not the most current).

As far as APRS in SAR, I don't know how long it's been since you
investigated Xastir, but it allows unlimited users, cost $0.00 to
download or register, and runs on most of the popular operating
systems, including Windows is you choose to do so. It also has some
SAR features with more planned. Of course some would say I might be
biased though... ;-)

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

17. Widening the list focus?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-24 13:23:07 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 12 Message: 17

Haven't heard anything further on the subject of widening the group.

Again, I'm looking for a place to discuss APRS operations for SAR (and perhaps other emergency groups). A list with a North American or global scale. A wider audience is necessary in order to gain enough viewpoints/experiences/knowledge to help everyone grow in this field.

There's no list I know of currently that would suit this sort of purpose. If this list can be "absconded" for the purpose, I'll announce it far and wide on many SAR/APRS/Ham-radio lists and we'll get a bunch of activity going here. If not, let me know and I'll go start a new list for the purpose.

Thanks!

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

18. RE: [SAR_APRS] Widening the list focus?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-26 05:08:54 UTC
From: maheil
Topic: 12 Message: 18

I think we are good to go. As long as the focus is on APRS for SAR operation, it would be appropriate to open it up to a wide audience.

I am looking forward to more activity.

Mike

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Curt, WE7U
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2006 6:23 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Widening the list focus?

Haven't heard anything further on the subject of widening the group.

Again, I'm looking for a place to discuss APRS operations for SAR (and perhaps other emergency groups). A list with a North American or global scale. A wider audience is necessary in order to gain enough viewpoints/experiences/knowledge to help everyone grow in this field.

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Thanks!

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"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

19. RE: [SAR_APRS] Widening the list focus?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-26 14:44:53 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 12 Message: 19

On Wed, 25 Oct 2006, maheil wrote:

> I think we are good to go. As long as the focus is on APRS for SAR
> operation, it would be appropriate to open it up to a wide audience.

Can we decide right now to allow other emergency-service APRS
discussions as well? My interest lies in SAR/APRS, but things like
wildland fires or RACES/ARES emergency support activities seem to be
closely related in terms of APRS deployment.

I _would_ like to stay away from discussing APRS in public service
events or normal non-emergency use of APRS. There are plenty of
other avenues for discussing such things.

Good 'nuf?

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

20. Re: [SAR_APRS] Widening the list focus?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-26 15:55:06 UTC
From: Ives, Kevin N.
Topic: 12 Message: 20

I agree with Mike.

Kevin Ives
Solano County OES

Kevin Ives
KNIves@SolanoCounty.com
Solano County Office of Emergency Services
707-784-1600 Office
707-580-4983 Cell

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Wed Oct 25 22:08:54 2006
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Widening the list focus?

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I am looking forward to more activity.

Mike

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Curt, WE7U
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2006 6:23 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Widening the list focus?

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(and perhaps other emergency groups). A list with a North American
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Thanks!

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"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

21. RE: [SAR_APRS] Widening the list focus?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-26 16:55:04 UTC
From: Ives, Kevin N.
Topic: 12 Message: 21

I would not mind discussion of what is being used in public safety if it is able to help with the development of SAR/APRS. I think that anything that is used in wildland or RACES/ARES should help with development.

Kevin Ives, Emergency Services Technician
Solano County Office of Emergency Services
530 Clay Street
Fairfield, CA 94533-5625
707-784-1600 Office
707-580-4983 Cell
KNIves@...
WWW.SolanoCounty.com/OES

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Curt, WE7U
Sent: Thursday, October 26, 2006 7:45 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Widening the list focus?

On Wed, 25 Oct 2006, maheil wrote:

> I think we are good to go. As long as the focus is on APRS for SAR
> operation, it would be appropriate to open it up to a wide audience.

Can we decide right now to allow other emergency-service APRS discussions as well? My interest lies in SAR/APRS, but things like wildland fires or RACES/ARES emergency support activities seem to be closely related in terms of APRS deployment.

I _would_ like to stay away from discussing APRS in public service events or normal non-emergency use of APRS. There are plenty of other avenues for discussing such things.

Good 'nuf?

--
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"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

22. RE: [SAR_APRS] Widening the list focus?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-26 18:50:59 UTC
From: Michael A Heil
Topic: 12 Message: 22

Good 'nuff. I think all is appropriate. Let's go ahead and see what kind of discussion and traffic we get.

Mike

"Curt, WE7U" <archer@...> wrote:
On Wed, 25 Oct 2006, maheil wrote:

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> operation, it would be appropriate to open it up to a wide audience.

Can we decide right now to allow other emergency-service APRS discussions as well? My interest lies in SAR/APRS, but things like wildland fires or RACES/ARES emergency support activities seem to be closely related in terms of APRS deployment.

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Good 'nuf?

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23. Re: Widening the list focus?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-28 09:39:17 UTC
From: c0j
Topic: 12 Message: 23

> Can we decide right now to allow other emergency-service APRS
> discussions as well? My interest lies in SAR/APRS, but things like
> wildland fires or RACES/ARES emergency support activities seem to be
> closely related in terms of APRS deployment.
>
> I _would_ like to stay away from discussing APRS in public service
> events or normal non-emergency use of APRS. There are plenty of
> other avenues for discussing such things.
>
> Good 'nuf?

Hi all,

Just to introduce myself, John, EI7IG, getting back into the hobby over the last 3 years or so due to an interest in APRS, specificially for AREN (RACES/ARES equivalent). I've engaged with a local Mountain Rescue organisation through us hams and them being present at public service events (specifically at the Galtee Mountain Walking Festival, we put two radios/trackers with each walk, APRS blew them all away last year).

I've also managaged to get a project running where we're looking at using/modifying/adding to xastir to help support the mountain rescue teams in their SAR activities.

Next weekend, I'm going on a "How to Search" course with them, and in two weeks time we are attending as observers on one of their training weekends, where they will be doing a 'table-top' excercise for use to watch/ask questions.

The idea is that we get to see how they operate, ask loads of questions and then try and come up with something that they might be able to use in the future (Requirements Analysis I suppose).

A problem here is that APRS itself doesn't seem to be permitted on the bands they use, and as Amateur Radio doesn't have as high a profile, we're trying to both raise the profile of AREN, and help them out if we can.

To that end, I got a phone call about 1 week ago, where they were putting us on standby to participate in a search with them (this was the first time we had been asked). As it happens the person was found and we weren't needed.

For the project we are looking at D-STAR/OpenTracker 2/APRS and MAP27 (Simoco SRP9000 radios with GPS Speaker Mikes, these are approved in the UK).

I've just been informed that the Kenwood TH-D7 and TH-D700 are no longer available in the UK or Ireland.

So thats me, anything we learn I will be happy to share with the group, but by the looks of things, you guys already are far more experienced than I.

Regards
John

24. Introduction / intergration question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-28 17:45:41 UTC
From: Sean Smith
Topic: 24 Message: 24

Hi there, I just Curt's message on the NWS APRS list and thought I'd join this group.

I've been involved in SAR for about 16 years. I've progressed through the ranks up to Search Manager. I've been the Chairman of the Search and Rescue Alberta Telecommunications committee for the last 4 years, our focus has been developing a Comms standard for the province.

Since I'm the biggest 'Radio Geek' in our search group I look after our radios.

On the ham side of things I'm building an APRS network for the local Ham club with an Igate located in Grimshaw Alberta (5 hours NW of Edmonton) and hopefully over the next year or so we'll have APRS coverage from Slave Lake (south easr side of Lesser Slave Lake) north to High Level (200 km south of the NWT border). That's about 6 hours worth of driving on the highway.

Now for my question, this summer while I was off in Ontario chasing forest fires the group purchased several Garmin Rinos, is there software other then Dmapper that can take both APRS and Rino data and display it on a map. Dmapper's limited stations, 6 I believe just doesn't cut it.

Thanks
Sean, VE6SAR
Mackenzie Region Radio Club
Peace Regional SAR
SAR Alberta Telecomms Committee

25. new member

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-28 21:19:52 UTC
From: David Clarke
Topic: 25 Message: 25

received the invitation to join and want to thank you. Name is David Clarke, Capt. New Jersey Search & Rescue. Just implementing APRS and working to be able to operate independently of internet. Using TinyTrak+ with KPC3+, Dmapper, and Maptech (for right now). Plan is to expand system to track tasks in field eventually linking to GoogleEarthPlus. Team has extensive Digital Mapping coupled with in-depth GIS database.

Looking forward to the exchange of ideas & problem solving. Good luck to all and Stay Safe!

Capt. David Clarke
NJSAR J40
Sr. GPS/Digital Mapping Instructor

26. Re: [SAR_APRS] Introduction / intergration question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-28 20:56:49 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 24 Message: 26

On Sat, 28 Oct 2006, Sean Smith wrote:

> Now for my question, this summer while I was off in Ontario chasing
> forest fires the group purchased several Garmin Rinos, is there
> software other then Dmapper that can take both APRS and Rino data
> and display it on a map. Dmapper's limited stations, 6 I believe
> just doesn't cut it.

Xastir can use an attached RINO radio to poll other RINO radios,
plot them on the local screen, and create APRS objects which it
transmits out to APRS stations. There's no limit to the number of
stations it can track. I've had 39,000+ stations being tracked
lately.a

See the links section of this group, one of the SAR wiki page that I
contribute to talks about the SAR features in the various APRS
programs, and the APRS Client Capabilities Chart goes into more
detail.

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

27. Re: Introduction / intergration question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-29 02:47:12 UTC
From: Sean Smith
Topic: 24 Message: 27

Hi Curt, I didn't realise Xastir had that capability, I've got it installed under cygwin right now on my laptop right now. I'm looking at trying to make a DSL (Damm Small Linux) Linux boot disk with Xastir so that I can use what ever computer is available. I just need to make the time to figure what packages I need and don't need. Is there plans to add support for Toporama for Canadian Topo maps? or Google Earth Maps?

Sean

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Curt Mills <archer@...> wrote:
>
> On Sat, 28 Oct 2006, Sean Smith wrote:
>
> > Now for my question, this summer while I was off in Ontario chasing
> > forest fires the group purchased several Garmin Rinos, is there
> > software other then Dmapper that can take both APRS and Rino data
> > and display it on a map. Dmapper's limited stations, 6 I believe
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> plot them on the local screen, and create APRS objects which it
> transmits out to APRS stations. There's no limit to the number of
> stations it can track. I've had 39,000+ stations being tracked
> lately.a
>
> See the links section of this group, one of the SAR wiki page that I
> contribute to talks about the SAR features in the various APRS
> programs, and the APRS Client Capabilities Chart goes into more
> detail.
>
> --
> Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
> http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
> Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
> Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
> The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
>

28. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Introduction / intergration question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-29 04:14:01 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 24 Message: 28

On Sun, 29 Oct 2006, Sean Smith wrote:

> Hi Curt, I didn't realise Xastir had that capability, I've got it
> installed under cygwin right now on my laptop right now.

Look at the File->Configure->Timing dialog. RINO downloads is an
option. It uses GPSMan to do the downloads from an attached RINO.
If the "callsign" begins with a certain string ("APRS"?) then Xastir
will do additional things with them.

> Is there plans to add support for Toporama for Canadian Topo maps?

There's a script in xastir/scripts for downloading the full set of
Canadian topo maps in either of two scales, then you can use them
locally. Didn't know there was a Toporama/Canadian selection. If
you can provide details on that we could probably support online
Canadian maps too.

> or Google Earth Maps?

They just changed their licensing terms recently, before that we
couldn't touch it. We may do something to support Google Earth in
the future.

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

29. Kenwood TH-D7AG + USB GPS?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 18:32:32 UTC
From: Jim Donovan
Topic: 29 Message: 29

Hi All
can I connect a TH-D7AG with a usb supported gps?
thanks
Jim

30. Re: [SAR_APRS] Kenwood TH-D7AG + USB GPS?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 18:49:53 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 29 Message: 30

On Mon, 30 Oct 2006, Jim Donovan wrote:

> can I connect a TH-D7AG with a usb supported gps?

You cannot. Unless the GPS has both USB and Serial ports.

USB requires a host side with fairly advanced driver software in
order to talk to the slave device on the other end. Something like
a TH-D7A doesn't have the horsepower or the memory space to support
such a driver. You need at least a PDA, but usually something like
a laptop or desktop PC in order to support the host-side of the USB
protocol.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

31. Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 20:09:34 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 31 Message: 31

Hi,

My name is Allen Lord, and I am a Captain and Ground Team Leader in the Civil Air Patrol (USAF-AUX) I am KG6HXO, and (Yosemite 222 for CAP people) and I have a GROL license with Radar endorsement. I manufacture the Micro-Trak 300 miniature APRS transmitter (www.byonics.com/microtrak300) and I hope to learn what is going on in the volunteer SAR world with APRS. The Civil Air Patrol is a Federal Agency, and we can't use APRS (at least on ham frequencies) but I believe that there is a major need for APRS in the SAR field and I am glad that you put together a Yahoo group just for us!

32. SAR APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 20:25:23 UTC
From: Richard
Topic: 32 Message: 32

Hi-
My name is Rich and I have been a member of our local SAR unit for the past 10 years. We have just started to acquire the APRS capability. We have just procured new radios that, hopefully, wil improved our APRS capability. We are currently using Tiny Trak3 with DMapper. All is working well except we have been using our old (> 10 yrs) Alinco HTs. As soon as some additonal hardware arrives we'll be on the air again..

33. Re: [SAR_APRS] Kenwood TH-D7AG + USB GPS?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 20:24:50 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 29 Message: 33
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

34. RE: [SAR_APRS] Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 20:27:56 UTC
From: Amir's email
Topic: 31 Message: 34

My name is Amir Findling and I?m a K9 SAR handler, a tracker (visual) ands a ham radio operator. My main interest is satellite communication but since my TH-D7AG can also do APRS, well I started playing around with this mode too.

I can definitely see where APRS could be useful to SAR, getting rid of the pesky calls asking for location etc. At the moment, I use it in my truck so that if anybody was interested enough, they could see my driving progress towards the search base.

Frankly, the TH-D7AG is not a radio that I would take out in the field for SAR. It is not built like a tank and is not waterproof or even water resistant. But being able to connect it with a single cord to my GPS certainly makes things easier. I may just have to put both the GPS and radio in a waterproof pouch, lock the keypad and just carry the radio/gps as an extra.

I?m interested to know how others deal in the SAR environment, with the relative fragility of the APRS equipment.

Amir Findling, 73 de K9CHP, member ARRL, AMSAT #36083
Coordinator, Senior K9 Handler Western NY SearchDogs, Inc.
http://www.wnysearchdogs.org/
K9 Certification Tester, NYS Federation of SAR Teams
http://www.nysfedsar.org/
1st Special Response Group (1SRG) http://www.1srg.org/
Apprentice Tracker, Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services
http://www.jhardin-inc.com/index.htm

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of vhsproducts
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 3:10 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Introduction

Hi,

My name is Allen Lord, and I am a Captain and Ground Team Leader in the Civil Air Patrol (USAF-AUX) I am KG6HXO, and (Yosemite 222 for CAP people) and I have a GROL license with Radar endorsement. I manufacture the Micro-Trak 300 miniature APRS transmitter (www.byonics.com/microtrak300) and I hope to learn what is going on in the volunteer SAR world with APRS. The Civil Air Patrol is a Federal Agency, and we can't use APRS (at least on ham frequencies) but I believe that there is a major need for APRS in the SAR field and I am glad that you put together a Yahoo group just for us!

35. Re: [SAR_APRS] Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 20:19:22 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 31 Message: 35

On Mon, 30 Oct 2006, vhsproducts wrote:

> I manufacture
> the Micro-Trak 300 miniature APRS transmitter (
> www.byonics.com/microtrak300)

Please add a link to that on the Hardware section of

<http://info.aprs.net>

and also add it to this Wiki page:

<http://wiki.ampr2.net/nwaprs/SearchAndRescue>

If you have trouble, let me know the link and description text and
I'll add it for you. The important thing is to have all the options
listed out there for people to look through.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

36. Re: [SAR_APRS] Kenwood TH-D7AG + USB GPS?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 20:36:29 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 29 Message: 36

On Mon, 30 Oct 2006, Tom Hayward wrote:

> No, but...
>
> Open up the USB GPS and poke around inside with an oscilloscope. The USB
> GPSs I have worked with are just a serial GPS and serial to USB converter
> all on one board. If it doesn't already have a serial port, you may be able
> to find the serial lines and interface your own DB9 connector to them.
>
> Of course, if it's all on one chip you probably won't be able to do this.
>
> Disclaimer: This will void your warranty and could possibly ruin your GPS
> receiver.

These will be CMOS or TTL-level signals and may be inverted compared
to the signal levels you're expecting. They're easily damaged if
you go below 0V or above 5V on the inputs, or try to pull too much
current out of an output.

In order to use these signals you'll need to add something like a
MAX-232 chip plus 4 little capacitors, plus if they're not inverted
TTL you'll need to add inverters between the MAX-232 pins and the
GPS. Plus of course the DE-9 connector.

All of this is relatively easy to do for your typical experimenter
ham.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
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"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

37. Re: Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 22:03:48 UTC
From: Jeff Moore
Topic: 31 Message: 37

The Microtrak 300 is an interesting New product, but it's incomplete!

A friend of mine makes a small, rugged, APRS transmitter/GPS unit that is used for tracking High Power Rockets. It operates on 70cm frequencies (freq programmable) and has a number of other features that make it flexible and usable for a variety of tasks. It's low power (12dBm - 16 milliwatts) but if power output is a problem in an asset tracking or SAR scenario, a high-power digipeater or cross-band repeater could be used to augment the system. As it is, 20 mile line-of-sight range is very usable and it's all there (GPS, transmitter, Li-Ion battery, rugged package). These units have been to over 90,000 feet in rockets and probably higher in balloons.

http://bigredbee.com/BeeLineGPS.htm

Tell Greg that Jeff Moore sent you!

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "vhsproducts" <CaptALord@...> wrote:
>
> Hi,
>
> My name is Allen Lord, and I am a Captain and Ground Team Leader in
the
> Civil Air Patrol (USAF-AUX) I am KG6HXO, and (Yosemite 222 for CAP
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> www.byonics.com/microtrak300) and I hope to learn what is going on
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> the volunteer SAR world with APRS. The Civil Air Patrol is a Federal
> Agency, and we can't use APRS (at least on ham frequencies) but I
> believe that there is a major need for APRS in the SAR field and I
am
> glad that you put together a Yahoo group just for us!
>

38. RE: [SAR_APRS] Kenwood TH-D7AG + USB GPS?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 18:47:55 UTC
From: Amir's email
Topic: 29 Message: 38

Hi Jim:
I have connected mine to the round (serial) port on my 60CS and 60CSx. I don ?t have yet a GPS with only a USB port although with both these GPS units I use the USB post to download maps, tracks etc.

Amir Findling, 73 de K9CHP, member ARRL, AMSAT #36083
Coordinator, Senior K9 Handler Western NY SearchDogs, Inc.
http://www.wnysearchdogs.org/
K9 Certification Tester, NYS Federation of SAR Teams
http://www.nysfedsar.org/
1st Special Response Group (1SRG) http://www.1srg.org/
Apprentice Tracker, Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services
http://www.jhardin-inc.com/index.htm

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of Jim Donovan
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 1:33 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Kenwood TH-D7AG + USB GPS?

Hi All
can I connect a TH-D7AG with a usb supported gps?
thanks
Jim

39. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 22:25:00 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 31 Message: 39

16 mW at ground level in regular terrain isn't going to go very far. In my experience, 5 and 6 watt VHF handhelds are marginal without a good fixed repeater system, at least in the sort of terrain we've got around here.

I'm working on a 6-watt ruggedized tracker/transceiver combo for SAR, but it's obviously going to be larger and heavier than the one you mention. Of course, it'll do a lot of other good stuff like waypoint output and digipeating. Also, I'm trying to stay away from an internal battery pack - the current prototype design will run on 6 AAs. I think it's important that the batteries be field-replaceable. The first version might be a little picky about what type of batteries it works with, though. It draws 2.5 amps during transmit, which might be a bit much for alkalines. In the future I'd like to do a switching power supply design, maybe with some big capacitors to handle the surge current requirements.

Scott
N1VG

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Jeff Moore
> Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 2:04 PM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: Introduction
>
> The Microtrak 300 is an interesting New product, but it's incomplete!
>
> A friend of mine makes a small, rugged, APRS transmitter/GPS
> unit that
> is used for tracking High Power Rockets. It operates on 70cm
> frequencies (freq programmable) and has a number of other features
> that make it flexible and usable for a variety of tasks. It's low
> power (12dBm - 16 milliwatts) but if power output is a problem in an
> asset tracking or SAR scenario, a high-power digipeater or cross-band
> repeater could be used to augment the system. As it is, 20 mile line-
> of-sight range is very usable and it's all there (GPS,
> transmitter, Li-
> Ion battery, rugged package). These units have been to over 90,000
> feet in rockets and probably higher in balloons.
>
> http://bigredbee.com/BeeLineGPS.htm
>
> Tell Greg that Jeff Moore sent you!
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> --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "vhsproducts" <CaptALord@...> wrote:

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> > the volunteer SAR world with APRS. The Civil Air Patrol is
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> > believe that there is a major need for APRS in the SAR field and I
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>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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40. RE: [SAR_APRS] Kenwood TH-D7AG + USB GPS?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 22:27:52 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 29 Message: 40

You can't use a USB connection to hook a GPS receiver up to ANY existing APRS device, and I don't expect that'll change any time in the near future. USB puts a lot of processing requirements on the host, and embedded USB hosts are complicated beasts. And there are no standard for how GPS receivers USE the USB link - it's completely different for Garmin, Magellan, and various generic devices.

I use a 60CS myself - supports USB, but still has a serial port. Works great.

Scott
N1VG

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Amir's email
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 10:48 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Kenwood TH-D7AG + USB GPS?

Hi Jim:
I have connected mine to the round (serial) port on my 60CS and 60CSx. I don't have yet a GPS with only a USB port although with both these GPS units I use the USB post to download maps, tracks etc.

Amir Findling, 73 de K9CHP, member ARRL, AMSAT #36083
Coordinator, Senior K9 Handler Western NY SearchDogs, Inc.
http://www.wnysearchdogs.org/
K9 Certification Tester, NYS Federation of SAR Teams
http://www.nysfedsar.org/
1st Special Response Group (1SRG) http://www.1srg.org/
Apprentice Tracker, Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services
http://www.jhardin-inc.com/index.htm

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of Jim Donovan
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2006 1:33 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Kenwood TH-D7AG + USB GPS?

Hi All
can I connect a TH-D7AG with a usb supported gps?
thanks
Jim

41. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 23:06:39 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 31 Message: 41

Scott,

Will you be able to select other power settings, by design or by user? 0.5 or 1.0w would be excellent. We have a good network for everyone, and our mobile trackers will digipeat only the portable units. The D7 is working acceptably at 0.5w, with a long whip antenna, and batteries last longer.

Or, you can transmit at shorter intervals, like 1 min, to reduce the number of inevitable packets that don't get out in any direction. I wouldn't want to transmit "high" power at such a short interval, just to dodge some flames ...

We should be able to get alot more of your units into the field, rather than our pricey and all-the-bells-and-whistles (and fragile) D7's. A tracker does not need to be "handheld", just "relatively" compact and lightweight. The tracker goes in my pack, since I have enough junque hanging off the front of my harness! Out of sight also means users are less likely to push the wrong buttons. Most are hams, but their attention is (should be) focused on their assignment.

73 de Mykle N7JZT
Southern Arizona Rescue Association
Tucson AZ

scott@... wrote:
> I'm working on a 6-watt ruggedized tracker/transceiver combo for SAR, but
> it's obviously going to be larger and heavier than the one you mention. Of
> course, it'll do a lot of other good stuff like waypoint output and
> digipeating. Also, I'm trying to stay away from an internal battery pack -
> the current prototype design will run on 6 AAs. I think it's important that
> the batteries be field-replaceable. The first version might be a little
> picky about what type of batteries it works with, though. It draws 2.5 amps
> during transmit, which might be a bit much for alkalines. In the future I'd
> like to do a switching power supply design, maybe with some big capacitors
> to handle the surge current requirements.

42. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-30 23:38:58 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 31 Message: 42

> Will you be able to select other power settings, by design or
> by user? 0.5 or
> 1.0w would be excellent. We have a good network for

Might not be software-configurable right away, but yes, the power level can be set anywhere from 0 to 6 watts. Maybe in the future it'll be smart enough to automatically adjust. That's fairly easy to do with a point to point link, though it could get kind of hairy for a mobile mesh.

> trackers will digipeat only the portable units. The D7 is
> working acceptably
> at 0.5w, with a long whip antenna, and batteries last longer.

You must have more open terrain than us. I'm going to be doing a lot of testing of portable digipeating - around here it's just a fact of life that you never have line of sight with the command post.

> transmit "high" power at such a short interval, just to dodge
> some flames ...

As long as you're on your own frequency, I don't think it matters how heavily you load the channel. For what it's worth, the radio I'm starting with is type accepted for commercial operation. I think that'll be void once I replace the control board, though. Might depend on exactly where the limiting takes place.

> We should be able to get alot more of your units into the
> field, rather than
> our pricey and all-the-bells-and-whistles (and fragile) D7's.

The version I'm working on at the moment is going to be pricey (probably in the same neighborhood as a D7) but in the future I hope to have more affordable RF modules.

> not need to be "handheld", just "relatively" compact and
> lightweight. The

Right - I'm expecting this unit to go in a pack.

> tracker goes in my pack, since I have enough junque hanging
> off the front of
> my harness! Out of sight also means users are less likely to

Agreed! My SAR gear is second only to my paraglider setup in terms of clutter. Next time I'm going with a rear-mounted reserve 'chute...

> buttons. Most are hams, but their attention is (should be)
> focused on their

> assignment.

Most of the SAR personnel here aren't hams. I also feel that they're not adequately trained on the radios they've got, and certainly not on the more technical equipment like the ELT DF'ers. The current management of the team seems to be focused much more strongly on training for high angle rescue and related subjects, with much less emphasis on the comm and medical areas than in the past. That attitude has a lot to do with why I left the team last year. I won't go into the details here, but I *don't* plan to use the local team as a test bed for this project. Wasted too much time already trying to get anything done there.

Scott
N1VG

43. Serial GPS to USB

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 00:16:26 UTC
From: Richard
Topic: 43 Message: 43

DeLorme provides a Serial Emulator that allows you to use serial ports (COM 0~99 virtual ports on Windows) for USB connections, and obtain raw data and/or sentences, based on NMEA 0184 standard type data.

This works great for connecting a serial GPS to a laptop that has no serial port, only USB ports.

I'll hook a TH-D7 to a laptop with a serial to USB cable and see if it will all play together. Haven't tried that yet.

'73 de Dick

44. APRS on Fire/EMS/Police Band

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 00:28:50 UTC
From: CASEY TIPPMANN
Topic: 44 Message: 44

hi,
this is Casey with Pennington County SAR. ham call KC0VZN

has anyone used aprs on frequencys other than ham radio, and used an EF Johnson digital radio. im working on it, but having some trouble interfacing the TT3 smt to the Accy port. the port is identical to the one on the motorola digitals(xts 3000). i think the problem is the impedance match. i think i may be overdriving the radio. i have attached the TT3 to the speaker-mic by tearing it apart and putting it in, but that was just a test and it worked fine. when i put it inline with the mic it caused the radio to stop working and it had to be sent in for repairs. any ideas help. thanks guys

45. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS on Fire/EMS/Police Band

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 00:57:01 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 44 Message: 45

> has anyone used aprs on frequencys other than ham radio, and used an
> EF Johnson digital radio. im working on it, but having some trouble

Yes to the first part - I've used Motorola GP68 handhelds and Kenwood TK-790 mobiles, both of which I built custom OpenTracker boards for.

Scott
N1VG

46. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 01:30:52 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 31 Message: 46

> The D7 is working acceptably at 0.5w, with a long whip,
> and batteries last longer.

For what it is worth, the TX power on most APRS mobiles is usually insignificant compared to receive power. The RX and TNC are on all the time drawing about 70 mA (I think) and so that is 70 mA-Minutes. Whereas the TX transmits for only 1/2 second every 60 seconds and draws maybe 1.2 amps at high power (?). But this is only 10 mA-minutes. So the TX power is only about 14% of the total battery drain.

So, yes, it saves battery power to run on low power, but only less than 15% of life, yet running on low power sacrifices over 7 dB of link margin. In many cases, getting in, is worth more than saving just 15% of battery life..

If you run a 2 minute rate, then the TX power is down to only about 7% of total battery life power, and is usually insignificant to mission success compared to being heard..

Anyway, just a thought.
Bob, Wb4APR

47. Welcome!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 02:34:38 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 47 Message: 47

Welcome to all of the new group members. It looks like we went from a gang of 5 to about 140 members in the last two days! I am glad to see that there is interest in APRS for SAR and other related applications.

Thanks to Curt for getting the word out.

My name is Mike Heil and I started the group along with Kevin Ives, N6QGV.

I am the Radio Officer for Solano County, California. This is a volunteer position that manages the Auxiliary Communications Service (ACS)/RACES programs for the Office of Emergency Services. I am also currently the Deputy Director Communications Engineering for the California Wing of the Civil Air Patrol and as of Wednesday will also be the Communications Director (DC) for the wing.

Call signs include:
K6MAH
Yosemite 20 (Yosemite 4 as of 1 November 2006)
AFA6MH

I have been in the Civil Air Patrol since 1972 and hold several emergency services credentials including Incident Commander, Comm Unit Director and Ground Team Leader.

I look forward to learning from everyone's APRS experiences.

Mike

48. Re: [SAR_APRS] Welcome!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 02:58:46 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 47 Message: 48

Mike,

Congratulations on your new position with Wing! You and I have met many times over the years, as I am with Sq 22 on Travis AFB. As the new Wing Dir of Comm, I was hoping you could tell me if we will have a dedicated digital channel (Since I assume we will be losing our packet Freq.) I would love to develop a CAP APRS Micro-Trak unit! Failing that, I would like to piggy- back APRS on to Diablo for just us Northern CA people as a test project.

By the way, I had been appointed by someone in the past to be the CAWG APRS project Officer. If you want or need another one, I would be happy to have my old "job" back!

Allen

49. Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 04:26:55 UTC
From: DaveN roadfacts.com
Topic: 31 Message: 49

Hello All,
I am a member of Deschutes County SAR in Central Oregon and the author of the "DMAPPER" program. My primary interest in APRS is "SAR" and how it can be used to make "live" tracking of search teams more efficient.

I am VERY interested in the "field" packs for SAR you may have assembled. There are plenty of vehicle configurations but not many that can be plugged into a ground pounders pack for a full day of searching. This is, in my opinion, the last big hurdle toward getting APRS more common in SAR.

The mapping can be solved with APRS programs and or map conversion programs (like Dmapper) for posting to maps that us SAR folks like. Don't forget about the Unix/Linux type programs as well as those available for Windows. The real trick will be building the bomb proof APRS capable SAR pack unit that can take the abuse of a search, snowmobile, or ATV unit. Pictures of the kits would be nice.

I have also run a variety of weather station and/or mountain pass camera images to our ODOT www.tripcheck.com web site using packet, but that is another subject for another mail group.

Thanks to Mike Heil for getting this group started.

Dave Neys, W7PDQ
www.dmapper.com

50. New Guy on board

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 04:42:22 UTC
From: Jim Walters
Topic: 50 Message: 50

My name is Jim and I have been licensed as WA2GIN since 1967. I am the Assistant Director and Communications Director for Escambia Search and Rescue, Inc. in Pensacola, Florida. ESAR was first chartered in 1961 and has specialty commands in Boat, Dive, Land, K-9, Communications, Support, and Family Services. We are the largest and oldest SAR group in Florida. Have been trying to find the time to put APRS into service with our K-9 and mobile units, so have been reading a lot.

E-mails are:
esar2@...
wa2gin@...

51. Re: Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 10:21:31 UTC
From: Richard
Topic: 31 Message: 51

Hi Dave -
Regarding the "field" packs....
We intend to use a three pocket chest harness from Conterra. It holds the radio, Garmin GPS 12 and the Tiny Trak 3 TNC. You can view the harness at: conterra-inc.com
Here in desert a chest harness can get a little uncomfortable, especially in the summer. But since only one team member will wear it, it can be passed around to the other members to share the wealth.
Rich
Morongo Basin SAR

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "DaveN roadfacts.com" <dave@...> wrote:
>
> Hello All,
> I am a member of Deschutes County SAR in Central Oregon and the author of
> the "DMAPPER" program. My primary interest in APRS is "SAR" and how it can
> be used to make "live" tracking of search teams more efficient.
>
> I am VERY interested in the "field" packs for SAR you may have assembled.
> There are plenty of vehicle configurations but not many that can be plugged
> into a ground pounders pack for a full day of searching. This is, in my
> opinion, the last big hurdle toward getting APRS more common in SAR.
>
> The mapping can be solved with APRS programs and or map conversion programs
> (like Dmapper) for posting to maps that us SAR folks like. Don't forget
> about the Unix/Linux type programs as well as those available for Windows.
> The real trick will be building the bomb proof APRS capable SAR pack unit
> that can take the abuse of a search, snowmobile, or ATV unit. Pictures of
> the kits would be nice.
>
> I have also run a variety of weather station and/or mountain pass camera
> images to our ODOT www.tripcheck.com web site using packet, but that is
> another subject for another mail group.

>
> Thanks to Mike Heil for getting this group started.
>
> Dave Neys, W7PDQ
> www.dmapper.com
>

52. Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 11:50:01 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 52 Message: 52

As Richard brought the subject up. Has anyone had an
oppertunity to compare Harnesses from different
manufacturers? I have the Double Adjusta Pro from
Conterra-inc, but I'm thinking of purchasing this one
http://www.cmcrescue.com/product.php?CatalogID=3&dept_id=3009&rootNode=20710&pid=20339

to see how they compare.

Would anyone else have any input? Comments?
Suggestions?

de John
EI7IG

Send instant messages to your online friends http://uk.messenger.yahoo.com

53. Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 13:31:30 UTC
From: usna71
Topic: 31 Message: 53

Hello, I am just joining. I am the Assistant Emergency Coordinator for Southern Grafton County New Hampshire, and the Communications Training Officer for the New Hampshire Wing Civil Air Patrol. I am interested in this for SAR.
73,
Bill
kb1mov

54. Canuck Coast Guard Radio Officer Coming Onboard

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 14:34:58 UTC
From: RobertCGRO
Topic: 54 Message: 54

G'day all. Name is Robert, VA3ROM. I'm a ham and a Canadian coast guard radio officer. I've been doing SAR air/marine communications for 30 years. I get to sit in a nice, warm & cozy radio room and send the real heroes out in cutters, choppers, and what-all.

If any of you have noticed the boat objects up on Lake Superior - c'est moi. I'm porting AIS ship traffic over to APRS with website information on the ships. I can track AIS (maritime equivalent of APRS) equipped ships, with a 3-el band beam out to 60nm around Thunder Bay area (geography permitting), and around the Isle Royale national park area.

So, any nautical hams visiting Thunder Bay area with AIS or APRS onboard, I can gate you to the net for all to see. We are just starting up our local APRS system in the Bay with 3 stations so far.

73 es BZ

55. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 14:22:46 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 31 Message: 55

On Mon, 30 Oct 2006, Mykle Raymond wrote:

> Will you be able to select other power settings, by design or by user? 0.5 or
> 1.0w would be excellent. We have a good network for everyone, and our mobile
> trackers will digipeat only the portable units. The D7 is working acceptably
> at 0.5w, with a long whip antenna, and batteries last longer.
>
> Or, you can transmit at shorter intervals, like 1 min, to reduce the number of
> inevitable packets that don't get out in any direction. I wouldn't want to
> transmit "high" power at such a short interval, just to dodge some flames ...

Naw, use systems that digipeat in each SAR pack, like the Tracker2
TNC that Scott will be producing in quantity Real Soon Now.

Each team becomes a WIDEn-N capable digipeater with dupe-checking,
or SARn-N digipeaters as I'm planning to do. With this scheme you
can _perhaps_ go to lower power 'cuz all you need is a path back to
base along the tops of any sets of teams, not a direct path to base
from each and every team.

In our terrain (NW coastal area, lots of wet forests/mountains) I'm
going to try high-power (5W-7W) for a while to see how that works
out before attempting lower power. It all depends on how the
everyone's-a-digipeater scheme works out. There may be cases where
we have all teams over a ridge or three from base and we'll need the
higher power during most of the mission.

With the waypoint generation capability of the T2 each team gets a
tactical display of the location of every other team + base on their
GPS map screen too.

Antennas are critical too. I've heard that the antennas supplied
with the TH-D7A's are crap. Many people replace them with Comet?
antennas right away. I have no direct experience with the Kenwood
APRS radios though.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

56. RE: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 14:55:19 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 52 Message: 56

> manufacturers? I have the Double Adjusta Pro from
> Conterra-inc, but I'm thinking of purchasing this one
> http://www.cmcrescue.com/product.php?CatalogID=3&dept_id=3009&
rootNode=20710&pid=20339

This is the one I use. Works pretty well. I can fit a Deluo GPS receiver under the elastic band on one shoulder strap. It's hard to see in the picture, but the whole back of the harness is a velcro pouch.

For what it's worth, when I got this the president of CMC Rescue was also head of the team, and it's what he and most of the rest of the team carried.

Scott
N1VG

57. Re: [SAR_APRS] Canuck Coast Guard Radio Officer Coming Onboard

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 14:48:40 UTC
From: Eric Christensen
Topic: 54 Message: 57

Morning Robert,
I'd like to implement an AIS to APRS link here in Eastern North Carolina. We have a lot of shipping and commercial traffic in the area and I think that it would be cool to view. Can you give me some information on how you are making it all happen?

73s de Eric KF4OTN (IT2 USN)

RobertCGRO wrote:
> G'day all. Name is Robert, VA3ROM. I'm a ham and a Canadian coast guard
> radio officer. I've been doing SAR air/marine communications for 30
> years. I get to sit in a nice, warm & cozy radio room and send the real
> heroes out in cutters, choppers, and what-all.
>
> If any of you have noticed the boat objects up on Lake Superior - c'est
> moi. I'm porting AIS ship traffic over to APRS with website information
> on the ships. I can track AIS (maritime equivalent of APRS) equipped
> ships, with a 3-el band beam out to 60nm around Thunder Bay area
> (geography permitting), and around the Isle Royale national park area.
>
> So, any nautical hams visiting Thunder Bay area with AIS or APRS
> onboard, I can gate you to the net for all to see. We are just starting
> up our local APRS system in the Bay with 3 stations so far.
>
> 73 es BZ
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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58. Alternate Antennas for the Kenwood D7A

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 15:09:20 UTC
From: Eric Christensen
Topic: 31 Message: 58

FWIW, I replaced my stock D7A antenna with a Diamond SRH519 antenna. It
is for "144/430MHz with Wide Band Receiving Coverage". It is quite
slender and durable and I've had no problems with it at all.

73s,
Eric KF4OTN

Curt, WE7U wrote:
> On Mon, 30 Oct 2006, Mykle Raymond wrote:
>
>> Will you be able to select other power settings, by design or by user? 0.5 or
>> 1.0w would be excellent. We have a good network for everyone, and our mobile
>> trackers will digipeat only the portable units. The D7 is working acceptably
>> at 0.5w, with a long whip antenna, and batteries last longer.
>>
>> Or, you can transmit at shorter intervals, like 1 min, to reduce the number of
>> inevitable packets that don't get out in any direction. I wouldn't want to
>> transmit "high" power at such a short interval, just to dodge some flames ...
>
> Naw, use systems that digipeat in each SAR pack, like the Tracker2
> TNC that Scott will be producing in quantity Real Soon Now.
>
> Each team becomes a WIDEn-N capable digipeater with dupe-checking,
> or SARn-N digipeaters as I'm planning to do. With this scheme you
> can _perhaps_ go to lower power 'cuz all you need is a path back to
> base along the tops of any sets of teams, not a direct path to base
> from each and every team.
>
> In our terrain (NW coastal area, lots of wet forests/mountains) I'm
> going to try high-power (5W-7W) for a while to see how that works
> out before attempting lower power. It all depends on how the
> everyone's-a-digipeater scheme works out. There may be cases where
> we have all teams over a ridge or three from base and we'll need the
> higher power during most of the mission.
>
> With the waypoint generation capability of the T2 each team gets a
> tactical display of the location of every other team + base on their
> GPS map screen too.
>
> Antennas are critical too. I've heard that the antennas supplied
> with the TH-D7A's are crap. Many people replace them with Comet?
> antennas right away. I have no direct experience with the Kenwood
> APRS radios though.
>
> --

> Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
> "Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
> "Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
> "The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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59. Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 15:33:40 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 52 Message: 59

scott@... wrote:
> This is the one I use. Works pretty well. I can fit a Deluo GPS receiver
> under the elastic band on one shoulder strap. It's hard to see in the
> picture, but the whole back of the harness is a velcro pouch.

This is a very general comment, and not addressed to anyone in particular.

A couple of comments have described carrying a GPS receiver in a radio harness. GPS receivers will have a better view of the sky (well, a better view of the trees perhaps, for many of you) when the GPS is carried somewhere OTHER than a front-of-the-harness pouch.

True, this was more of a problem with earlier receivers. Recent ones have less of a problem keeping satellite lock. We are still working under heavy cover in the bottoms of deep canyons, so we need all the advantages we can get. On a search last week in basically flat, open country, a couple of yellow eTrex had tracks that were conspicuously ratty. Fortunately, most of the rest were newer with better receivers.

As Scott mentioned, carrying a receiver on top of a shoulder strap works much better than a front pocket. We're all carrying heavy packs, and we're paying attention to "stuff" on the ground, so we tend to lean forward.

Another good location is in the top pouch of a pack, but better for a receiver that does not have a display.

Mine is held on my shoulder strap with velcro "wire ties". AND, the lanyard is tied off. So I can still remove the GPS to look at it, and get it back on the strap easily.

73 de Mykle N7JZT

60. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 15:47:11 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 31 Message: 60

Curt, WE7U wrote:
> On Mon, 30 Oct 2006, Mykle Raymond wrote:
>
> > Will you be able to select other power settings, by design or by user? 0.5 or
> > 1.0w would be excellent. We have a good network for everyone, and our mobile
> > trackers will digipeat only the portable units. The D7 is working acceptably
> > at 0.5w, with a long whip antenna, and batteries last longer.
> >
> > Or, you can transmit at shorter intervals, like 1 min, to reduce the number of
> > inevitable packets that don't get out in any direction. I wouldn't want to
> > transmit "high" power at such a short interval, just to dodge some flames ...
>
> Naw, use systems that digipeat in each SAR pack, like the Tracker2
> TNC that Scott will be producing in quantity Real Soon Now.

Portable tracker/digi capability is certainly very interesting!

> Each team becomes a WIDEn-N capable digipeater with dupe-checking,
> or SARn-N digipeaters as I'm planning to do. With this scheme you
> can _perhaps_ go to lower power 'cuz all you need is a path back to
> base along the tops of any sets of teams, not a direct path to base
> from each and every team.

A couple of people have focused on the "direct path to base". Note that
I described our system where the mobile trackers are configured to digi
packets from portable trackers. So we can move a vehicle where it can
look into a canyon and bounce the traffic out.

We also have the advantage around Tucson, where our mountains are visible
all around. So our home stations can also be configured to digi packets
from portable trackers.

> In our terrain (NW coastal area, lots of wet forests/mountains) I'm
> going to try high-power (5W-7W) for a while to see how that works
> out before attempting lower power. It all depends on how the
> everyone's-a-digipeater scheme works out. There may be cases where
> we have all teams over a ridge or three from base and we'll need the
> higher power during most of the mission.

Bob's comments about the relatively small Tx-power budget were also
very interesting. So high power has less of a disadvantage than I
expected.

> With the waypoint generation capability of the T2 each team gets a
> tactical display of the location of every other team + base on their
> GPS map screen too.
>

> Antennas are critical too. I've heard that the antennas supplied
> with the TH-D7A's are crap. Many people replace them with Comet?
> antennas right away. I have no direct experience with the Kenwood
> APRS radios though.

AMEN. Another good reason to get the tracker radio out of a front pocket of a harness, and into the top of your pack. Maybe we need a pocket or three at the top of the mesh backscreen of the radio harness! I was stuck in IC on one search, so sent my tracker out to be assigned to another team. I was wondering why that tracker was working well for awhile, then got spotty. I met the teams coming out of the field, and my long Comet antenna had been tied in a double loop after being carried in a front pouch and the antenna swatted the searcher in the face one too many times!

73 de Mykle N7JZT

61. Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 15:57:43 UTC
From: Eric Christensen
Topic: 52 Message: 61

Mykle,
Have you (or someone else on the list) tried to use a Garmen 60CSX on
the front of a harness? I wonder with the better antenna that it has if
it would work better than the eTrex.

73s,
Eric KF4OTN

Mykle Raymond wrote:
> scott@... wrote:
>> This is the one I use. Works pretty well. I can fit a Deluo GPS receiver
>> under the elastic band on one shoulder strap. It's hard to see in the
>> picture, but the whole back of the harness is a velcro pouch.
>
> This is a very general comment, and not addressed to anyone in particular.
>
> A couple of comments have described carrying a GPS receiver in a radio
> harness. GPS receivers will have a better view of the sky (well, a better
> view of the trees perhaps, for many of you) when the GPS is carried somewhere
> OTHER than a front-of-the-harness pouch.
>
> True, this was more of a problem with earlier receivers. Recent ones have
> less of a problem keeping satellite lock. We are still working under heavy
> cover in the bottoms of deep canyons, so we need all the advantages we can
> get. On a search last week in basically flat, open country, a couple of
> yellow eTrex had tracks that were conspicuously ratty. Fortunately, most
> of the rest were newer with better receivers.
>
> As Scott mentioned, carrying a receiver on top of a shoulder strap works
> much better than a front pocket. We're all carrying heavy packs, and we're
> paying attention to "stuff" on the ground, so we tend to lean forward.
>
> Another good location is in the top pouch of a pack, but better for a receiver
> that does not have a display.
>
> Mine is held on my shoulder strap with velcro "wire ties". AND, the lanyard
> is tied off. So I can still remove the GPS to look at it, and get it back
> on the strap easily.
>
> 73 de Mykle N7JZT
>
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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62. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 16:18:34 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 31 Message: 62

> Portable tracker/digi capability is certainly very interesting!

It's on the way. It'll get more interesting when I start working on store-and-forward capability, and some smarter routing than what you find in APRS today. This is exactly what I started the OpenTRAC project for, but I've gotten sidetracked for the last couple of years. =]

> We also have the advantage around Tucson, where our mountains
> are visible
> all around. So our home stations can also be configured to

Our mountains are visible all around, too. Trouble is, usually ALL you can see is mountains and chaparral, with a mean free path of about 1/4 mile! Lots of narrow canyons everywhere.

> Bob's comments about the relatively small Tx-power budget were also
> very interesting. So high power has less of a disadvantage than I
> expected.

That's right - the duty cycle is typically very low. It's only a problem in my power supply design because the radio has a peak current draw of 2.5 amps @ 7.5 V at high power. Really complicates a switching power supply design.

> AMEN. Another good reason to get the tracker radio out of a front
> pocket of a harness, and into the top of your pack. Maybe we need

The tracker pack I'm working on at the moment is intended to go in the top of your pack. Doesn't have any user-accessible controls anyway, and it has fewer obstructions there. Some day I'd love to be able to offer one with a Bluetooth link to a mapping PDA, so you can just carry a ruggedized PDA in your harness and not be tethered by any wires. Ok, maybe a lanyard... as someone mentioned, we spend a lot of time bending over. Never did find my 5/8 wave telescoping antenna. (Which is another good item to carry for HTs - too fragile for normal use, but it's nice to have the extra gain when you need it!)

Scott
N1VG

63. Membership

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 16:48:50 UTC
From: Bruce P. Smith
Topic: 63 Message: 63

Good Morning, All.
I am Bruce P. Smith, KD4GWL, been in Civil Air Patrol for over 40 years and always involved from the Emergency Services/Communications side. I've been in Command at the Group Level in Virginia, Texas and now Florida. My area in South Florida is the busiest in the states with an average of a mission a day and many with multiple sites. I have been building modified ham DF units and antennae systems for a long time. Present project is building Byonics RDF System to both track vehicles and bearings to target, project also includes fixed sites with signal activated RDF. I'm presently working with Tracker III and Delorme Tracker for aircrew and UDF team training. I hope the up coming changes to the CAP Communications doesn't put us back behind the 8 ball, again. Like to talk to anyone who has a tracking/bearing system working on non-ham frequencies.

Bruce

64. Membership

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 16:48:51 UTC
From: Bruce P. Smith
Topic: 63 Message: 64

Good Morning, All.
I am Bruce P. Smith, KD4GWL, been in Civil Air Patrol for over 40 years and always involved from the Emergency Services/Communications side. I've been in Command at the Group Level in Virginia, Texas and now Florida. My area in South Florida is the busiest in the states with an average of a mission a day and many with multiple sites. I have been building modified ham DF units and antennae systems for a long time. Present project is building Byonics RDF System to both track vehicles and bearings to target, project also includes fixed sites with signal activated RDF. I'm presently working with Tracker III and Delorme Tracker for aircrew and UDF team training. I hope the up coming changes to the CAP Communications doesn't put us back behind the 8 ball, again. Like to talk to anyone who has a tracking/bearing system working on non-ham frequencies.

Bruce

65. Membership

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 16:48:52 UTC
From: Bruce P. Smith
Topic: 63 Message: 65

Good Morning, All.
I am Bruce P. Smith, KD4GWL, been in Civil Air Patrol for over 40 years and always involved from the Emergency Services/Communications side. I've been in Command at the Group Level in Virginia, Texas and now Florida. My area in South Florida is the busiest in the states with an average of a mission a day and many with multiple sites. I have been building modified ham DF units and antennae systems for a long time. Present project is building Byonics RDF System to both track vehicles and bearings to target, project also includes fixed sites with signal activated RDF. I'm presently working with Tracker III and Delorme Tracker for aircrew and UDF team training. I hope the up coming changes to the CAP Communications doesn't put us back behind the 8 ball, again. Like to talk to anyone who has a tracking/bearing system working on non-ham frequencies.

Bruce

66. Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 16:32:21 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 52 Message: 66

Eric Christensen wrote:
> Mykle,
> Have you (or someone else on the list) tried to use a Garmen 60CSX on
> the front of a harness? I wonder with the better antenna that it has if
> it would work better than the eTrex.

I'll have to ask Scotty where he was carrying his 60CS (not X). His track was more detailed than most others, not that that depended more on his track settings. It did not have any dropouts or spurious track points.

Still, this was in open country, not under trees at the bottom of a canyon. So receivers need to be carried where they have the best view of "up".

Compare receivers from inside a building. Better receivers will often obtain lock, others won't. That's just a general observation, not a test with any collection of receivers.

A better test is to simply go for a hike with a number of receivers (and ideally only one per person!), with all being carried "optimally", then compare their tracks.

All that said, remember that most of our posits are useful, even if they have 100m error (usually much less). That much error wouldn't be a cause for grief at IC if it was on a trail-search team. On a line search, yes it would be a more serious issue. But we do lots more trail-search around here, and I suspect most areas do as well.

The bottom line is that we must always be sensitive to the errors that GPS will always have, large or small. Some we can do something about, others we can only recognize. I suspect that most of us are bothered about small errors or lack of precision, like the limits of the Mic-E format used by Kenwood radios, Tiny Track (dunno about newer ones), and others (it's about 60'). It isn't an issue most of the time, but people still quibble when they don't understand that we aren't in the woods running sub-cm level receiver systems.

Sorry, I'm starting to preach ... and looking at the list of participants on this list, there are several people much better qualified to preach!
(30.6N 96.3W)

73 de Mykle N7JZT

67. RE: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 17:22:51 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 52 Message: 67

> about small errors or lack of precision, like the limits of the Mic-E
> format used by Kenwood radios, Tiny Track (dunno about newer ones),
> and others (it's about 60'). It isn't an issue most of the time, but

Mic-E is going to be limited to about 60' regardless of what's generating it. There's a sparsely supported !DAO! extension that'll give you an extra digit of resolution - so far I think only the OpenTracker and Xastir support it. Best option is Base91 compressed mode, which gives you about 1 foot resolution. OpenTRAC gets you down to about 2 cm in the same number of bytes, but you're going to have to wait a bit for full support!

I'm probably going to make by baseline setup Base91 with voltage telemetry enabled, so the CP can keep track of trackers that are in need of battery replacement.

Scott
N1VG

68. RE: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 15:14:57 UTC
From: Amir's email
Topic: 52 Message: 68

Check this one out:

http://www.powerportstore.com/radio%20harnes%20AR.htm

It has an inner zipped pocket, an outer pocket, a radio pocket in the front and an additional pocket in the back. Plenty of room for spare batteries, GPS etc. I use it for portable satellite work and for SAR when I carry a type accepted radio, in the back with speaker/mike and my ham radio in front with my GPS and other sundries.

Amir Findling, 73 de K9CHP, member ARRL, AMSAT #36083
Coordinator, Senior K9 Handler Western NY SearchDogs, Inc.
http://www.wnysearchdogs.org/
K9 Certification Tester, NYS Federation of SAR Teams
http://www.nysfedsar.org/
1st Special Response Group (1SRG) http://www.1srg.org/
Apprentice Tracker, Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services
http://www.jhardin-inc.com/index.htm

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of scott@...
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 9:55 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

> manufacturers? I have the Double Adjusta Pro from
> Conterra-inc, but I'm thinking of purchasing this one
> http://www.cmcrescue.com/product.php?CatalogID=3&dept_id=3009&
<http://www.cmcrescue.com/product.php?CatalogID=3&dept_id=3009&>
rootNode=20710&pid=20339

This is the one I use. Works pretty well. I can fit a Deluo GPS receiver under the elastic band on one shoulder strap. It's hard to see in the picture, but the whole back of the harness is a velcro pouch.

For what it's worth, when I got this the president of CMC Rescue was also head of the team, and it's what he and most of the rest of the team carried.

Scott
N1VG

69. Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 17:53:59 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 52 Message: 69

scott@... wrote:
> Mic-E is going to be limited to about 60' regardless of what's generating
> it. There's a sparsely supported !DAO! extension that'll give you an extra
> digit of resolution - so far I think only the OpenTracker and Xastir support
> it. Best option is Base91 compressed mode, which gives you about 1 foot
> resolution. OpenTRAC gets you down to about 2 cm in the same number of
> bytes, but you're going to have to wait a bit for full support!

One foot resolution implies at least a differential configuration (separate GPS receiver at a fixed location (within a few 10's of Km?), transmitting timing corrections that the tracker receives, perhaps on a separate radio). Is WAAS considered to be a differential system? At least it does not require a separate receiver! All search missions must be in canyons facing SOUTH!

Two cm implies even more hardware, and control points within a few Km!!

Well, at least you are aiming at a market that includes more than us meagerly hams! (My real job is with a geophysical survey company that could be interested)

> I'm probably going to make by baseline setup Base91 with voltage telemetry
> enabled, so the CP can keep track of trackers that are in need of battery
> replacement.

That suggests a tracker with one battery supply running all components. Not mandatory, but certainly useful.

73 de Mykle N7JZT

70. Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 17:33:05 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 52 Message: 70

On Tue, 31 Oct 2006, Mykle Raymond wrote:

> I suspect that most of us are bothered
> about small errors or lack of precision, like the limits of the Mic-E
> format used by Kenwood radios, Tiny Track (dunno about newer ones),
> and others (it's about 60'). It isn't an issue most of the time, but
> people still quibble when they don't understand that we aren't in the
> woods running sub-cm level receiver systems.

Opentrackers or Xastir can output Base-91 compressed posits, giving 2 or 3 feet of precision, better than the GPS can put out. At least it's not the 40' x 60' precision you'll get from standard APRS posits, Mic-E posits, or 2-digits after the decimal NMEA posits! I hate throwing away precision arbitrarily.

BTW: Xastir displays a white box with the station in one corner of it when you zoom in sufficiently. This shows the precision possible for each posit. It's quite small for Base-91 posits or for NMEA posits with 3 or 4 digits after the decimal point. The box is large (about 40'x60' in my area) for Mic-E posits/normal APRS posits/2-digit NMEA posits.

The boxes are offset in the direction of truncation. In the Seattle area this would mean the symbol is at the SE corner of the box. The whole idea here is that the station is _somewhere_ inside that box, but you don't know where because they're not transmitting enough digits to tell you more than that. These boxes ignore GPS positioning errors of course. If that effect was included then the boxes would get rounded outwards based on the HDOP. They'd be a cross between an error ellipse and a rectangle.

Since SA has been turned off, if you've got a good HDOP or have GPS augmentation of some kind, the normal APRS and/or Mic-E posits are not capable of sending the precision of the GPS along to a receiving station. Base-91 or 3/4-digit NMEA posits are. Of course NMEA posits are very long so are harder to receive correctly without errors, plus use more air-time, so Base-91 posits are currently the best.

> Sorry, I'm starting to preach ... and looking at the list of participants
> on this list, there are several people much better qualified to preach!

Hey, I've saved quite a few of your posts over the years from various lists where we're both subscribed...

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer

"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

71. RE: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 18:29:52 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 52 Message: 71

The best combination I have come up with over the years using my GPS and TH-D7 Tracker is I use a Garmin V mapping GPS with an external Trimble Amplified Antenna. That improves getting a fix under the tree canopy and canyons a lot over the stock antenna. I use an orange juice can lid as the ground plane for this antenna and secure it to the shoulder strap of my backpack using the self-stick stretch medical tape. That way you can mount it so that the antenna is always pointing up. I keep my GPS in a cheap camera pouch secured to my backpack strap at a convenient location so I can always have it turned ON and be able to pull it out to look at the screen whenever I desire.

My TH-D7 radio with one of the 17" whip antennas, sits in one of the side pockets of my backpack inside a neoprene pouch (its soda bottle pouch I got at Wal-Mart) then this pouch is inside a plastic bag. The antenna goes through a hole in top of this pouch and plastic bag which has the normal opening pointed down. I use the external mic on the radio with the mic hanging under my arm pit also secured to the backpack strap.

This is the best combination I came up with and I can use my GPS and radio continuously while in the mountains and during hunting. I have never gotten the radio wet using this set-up in our rainy WA climate and have the GPS at my fingertips so I can look at the maps on the GPS anytime my heart desires. With everything inside the backpack, it all comes off with the backpack with no wires attached to my body.

Yes, this set up could very quickly be attached to any SAR teams backpack in a couple of minutes. Then with APRS running on the TH-D7 and the key-pad locked, even a non-ham foot pounder can use the tracker since the control operator is in SAR base and has radio control to the foot pounder via their normal SAR radio. The foot pounder can only turn the tracker ON or OFF at the direction of the control operator, should that be desired.

Herb, KB7UVC
Mason County ARES/RACES ex-President & APRS Coordinator

Mason County ComVan: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-1
Mason County Relay Truck: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-2
Mason County EOC: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-3
Mason County Foot Tracker: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-6

Where I am walking: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-7
Where I am driving: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-8
My other vehicle: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-9

72. Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 18:59:07 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 52 Message: 72
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

73. RE: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 17:46:03 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 52 Message: 73

On Tue, 31 Oct 2006 scott@... wrote:

> There's a sparsely supported !DAO! extension that'll give you an extra
> digit of resolution - so far I think only the OpenTracker and Xastir support
> it.

Nope, not even Xastir yet. It's on our TODO list, but so are
hundreds of other things (literally!).

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

74. RE: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 16:00:16 UTC
From: Amir's email
Topic: 52 Message: 74

With the Garmin 60CS I used a Gilsson external antenna but with the 60CSx in the same position slightly above a breast pocket level, I have yet to need the external antenna, even when bending down.

I?m also using the Comet 24SMA antenna and with the harness I mentioned in my previous post, the antenna is out of the way of my face as well as other searchers (and happily replaced by crabapple or any other type of thorny brush depending on areas?)

Amir Findling, 73 de K9CHP, member ARRL, AMSAT #36083
Coordinator, Senior K9 Handler Western NY SearchDogs, Inc.
http://www.wnysearchdogs.org/
K9 Certification Tester, NYS Federation of SAR Teams
http://www.nysfedsar.org/
1st Special Response Group (1SRG) http://www.1srg.org/
Apprentice Tracker, Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services
http://www.jhardin-inc.com/index.htm

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of Mykle Raymond
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 10:34 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

.

A couple of comments have described carrying a GPS receiver in a radio harness. GPS receivers will have a better view of the sky (well, a better view of the trees perhaps, for many of you) when the GPS is carried somewhere
OTHER than a front-of-the-harness pouch.

True, this was more of a problem with earlier receivers. Recent ones have less of a problem keeping satellite lock. We are still working under heavy cover in the bottoms of deep canyons, so we need all the advantages we can get. On a search last week in basically flat, open country, a couple of yellow eTrex had tracks that were conspicuously ratty. Fortunately, most of the rest were newer with better receivers.

As Scott mentioned, carrying a receiver on top of a shoulder strap works much better than a front pocket. We're all carrying heavy packs, and we're paying attention to "stuff" on the ground, so we tend to lean forward.

Another good location is in the top pouch of a pack, but better for a receiver
that does not have a display.

Mine is held on my shoulder strap with velcro "wire ties". AND, the lanyard is tied off. So I can still remove the GPS to look at it, and get it back on the strap easily.

73 de Mykle N7JZT

75. Everybody-a-digipeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 19:15:28 UTC
From: Tom Russo
Topic: 31 Message: 75

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...> wrote:
>
> On Mon, 30 Oct 2006, Mykle Raymond wrote:
[...]
> > I wouldn't want to
> > transmit "high" power at such a short interval, just to dodge some
flames ...
>
> Naw, use systems that digipeat in each SAR pack, like the Tracker2
> TNC that Scott will be producing in quantity Real Soon Now.
>
> Each team becomes a WIDEn-N capable digipeater with dupe-checking,
> or SARn-N digipeaters as I'm planning to do. With this scheme you
> can _perhaps_ go to lower power 'cuz all you need is a path back to
> base along the tops of any sets of teams, not a direct path to base
> from each and every team.

Perhaps there's something I'm missing about this idea, but it sounds like a potentially risky way to go, and I'd like to hear some more discussion of it.

It seems to me that putting a bunch of low-power "WIDEn-N" stations out in the field could really wreak havoc on a local RF environment --- with each portable station potentially digipeating all of the traffic from a local high WIDE digi, dramatically reducing the time the channel's clear enough for any of those portable trackers to get a word in edgewise.

Setting up a temporary SARn-N mobile infrastructure could make sense, as long as the command post has a very clear path to one or more stationary SARn-N digi(s) so it can be sure of getting all the traffic --- much the way that Bob B. has advocated using TEMPn-N on Field Day. Relying *only* on the portable trackers to do that SARn-N digipeating would be risky, because without a high-wide digi to be sure of getting all that traffic to the command post (or wherever it needs to be tracked), one loses access to the existing WIDEn-N infrastructure unless one uses absurd paths, or possibly alternates between "WIDE2-2" and "SAR7-7" or whatever.

In my area, where there is a huge number of extremely wide-coverage digipeaters, but where there are also areas where coverage is spotty due to shadowing in canyons and other issues, there is a need for *some* temporary way to get stations' reports to where they need to be, but I think that if we went this way there'd be a nightmare every time we had a SAR mission --- routine traffic would clobber mission traffic as all the local mobiles with their WIDE3-3 paths and frequent

posits (such as those from mis-configured TinyTrak2's with SmartBeaconing that transmits every 20 seconds) light up every tracker on the mission. (spot the peeve)

Another potentially safer option might be to make the portable stations "fill-in" digis (WIDE1-1) rather than WIDEn-N, then have all the portables use a path of WIDE1-1,WIDE2-2 (or whatever). That way, the true high-wide digi wouldn't cause every single tracker in the area to digipeat all non-local traffic, individual trackers could help get a marginal station up to a real wide digi, and trackers that had a direct path to a good high-wide digi would still get properly digipeated by that digi.

In addition to having the randomly distributed portable trackers doing the digipeating, a few well-placed temporary fill-in digis to cover shadowed areas would probably be more effective at assuring mission communication.

I'm really interested to hear what others think about the everyone-a-digi idea.

--
Tom Russo KM5VY SAR502 DM64ux http://www.swcp.com/~russo/
Tijeras, NM QRPL#1592 K2#398 SOC#236 http://kevan.org/brain.cgi?DDTNM
"And, isn't sanity really just a one-trick pony anyway? I mean all you get is
one trick, rational thinking, but when you're good and crazy, oooh, oooh, oooh, the sky is the limit!" --- The Tick

76. Re: [SAR_APRS] Everybody-a-digipeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 19:31:47 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 31 Message: 76

On Tue, 31 Oct 2006, Tom Russo wrote:

> It seems to me that putting a bunch of low-power "WIDEn-N" stations
> out in the field could really wreak havoc on a local RF environment

Yes. Put them out as SARn-N or something else non-standard instead,
with pre-emptive digipeating enabled.

> Relying *only* on the portable trackers to do that SARn-N digipeating
> would be risky, because without a high-wide digi to be sure of getting
> all that traffic to the command post (or wherever it needs to be
> tracked), one loses access to the existing WIDEn-N infrastructure
> unless one uses absurd paths, or possibly alternates between "WIDE2-2"
> and "SAR7-7" or whatever.

Instead use a path of "WIDE2-2,SAR7-7" or "WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR7-7"
from the trackers. This way the SARn-N digipeaters will pick them
up on the FIRST DIGIPEAT due to the preemptive digipeater
capability. If they don't pick them up the WIDE1-1 or WIDEn-N
digi's might assist in other instances.

> Another potentially safer option might be to make the portable
> stations "fill-in" digis (WIDE1-1) rather than WIDEn-N, then have all
> the portables use a path of WIDE1-1,WIDE2-2 (or whatever).

You still end up digipeating some of the regular APRS traffic in
this case, particulary if you were near an urban area.

Go to the links section, the one titled: "Search and Rescue Wiki
Page", and read the section titled: "Network Infrastructure for
SAR" to see what I hope to try soon. Explained better than I have
so far in this thread (I think).

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

77. Re: [SAR_APRS] Everybody-a-digipeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 20:18:36 UTC
From: Steven Friis
Topic: 31 Message: 77

Tom Russo wrote:
> I'm really interested to hear what others think about the
> everyone-a-digi idea.
>
OK, so my bulb may not be the brightest on the string, but here is a simple idea that I have.

Put all the SAR units on 144.990 simplex with a single digipeater with a good path to the network digipeater on 990 receive and 390 transmit. Doing it this way, you can put several units with true TNC's in the field, and digipeat within the SAR mission footprint (SIC) all that is necessary to get the coverage needed.

Steve

78. Re: Everybody-a-digipeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 20:33:26 UTC
From: Tom Russo
Topic: 31 Message: 78

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...> wrote:
>
> On Tue, 31 Oct 2006, Tom Russo wrote:
>
> > It seems to me that putting a bunch of low-power "WIDEn-N" stations
> > out in the field could really wreak havoc on a local RF environment
>
> Yes. Put them out as SARn-N or something else non-standard instead,
> with pre-emptive digipeating enabled.

I musta missed a meeting, as I was unaware that there was support for
pre-emptive digipeating. I haven't followed all the discussions on
APRSSIG that might have said something about that. That sounds like
it could help.

On the other hand, consider this path for a tracker:

WIDE1-1,WIDE2-2,SAR3-3

A SARn-N portable is first to hear it and pre-emptively digipeats it.
Is it the packet now limited only to SARn-N digis from this point
forward? If so, it loses access to the WIDEn-N infrastructure again.

> > Another potentially safer option might be to make the portable
> > stations "fill-in" digis (WIDE1-1) rather than WIDEn-N, then have all
> > the portables use a path of WIDE1-1,WIDE2-2 (or whatever).
>
> You still end up digipeating some of the regular APRS traffic in
> this case, particulary if you were near an urban area.

But not that much of it. The portables would only digipeat packets
sent with WIDE1-1,WIDE2-2 paths from stations that they could hear
directly, not packets they'd picked up off a true WIDE digpeater
(unless folks are using antisocial paths with WIDE1-1 in something
other than the first slot). Only mobiles should be using the WIDE1-1
in the first slot anyway. But having the portables be WIDEn-N digis
in all their glory *would* digipeat almost all of the non-local
traffic it heard (with the exception of stuff for which the last digi
to digipeat it was the Nth in the chain).

--
Tom Russo KM5VY SAR502 DM64ux http://www.swcp.com/~russo/
Tijeras, NM QRPL#1592 K2#398 SOC#236 http://kevan.org/brain.cgi?DDTNM
"And, isn't sanity really just a one-trick pony anyway? I mean all you
get is
one trick, rational thinking, but when you're good and crazy, oooh, oooh,
oooh, the sky is the limit!" --- The Tick

79. Re: [SAR_APRS] Everybody-a-digipeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 20:01:09 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 31 Message: 79

Tom Russo wrote:
> Perhaps there's something I'm missing about this idea, but it sounds
> like a potentially risky way to go, and I'd like to hear some more
> discussion of it.

Just a bit of perspective to add to the discussion of network configuration.

We have defined a specific alias to be transmitted only by portable trackers.
All of our SAR-specific infill digis (mobile or fixed) handle only this alias.

We're also using the standard APRS network, since it is well set up, and each
of the standard digipeaters in our region also handles this alias in addition
to WIDEn-n. Bob's (and lots of contributors) "new paradigm" has cut down on
the clutter, so our network is more effective.

It doesn't matter what specific alias you choose, as long as you restrict
transmission to portable trackers (QRP units < 10w, but I had been
specifying < 1w until Bob's comments). And ALL regional digipeaters handle
that alias in addition to any others.

The alias doesn't even have to be SAR-specific, since you are restricting
it's use to QRP trackers. We're using "SANDR" (Search AND Rescue), and
you can blame me for choosing an alias with more than a minimum number of
characters. Choose "PT" if you want something short (Portable Tracker).
Or just "QRP".

This scheme normally uses a path of "SANDR,WIDE2-1". Everbody-a-digi would
require more than one alias, so it would be easier with "PT,PT,PT" or even
"PT3-3" (not much shorter, is it?), or "PT,PT,WIDE2-1". But I have only
begun to think of the ramifications of Everybody-a-digi ...

I suspect that your convention will depend completely upon your network
design (public APRS or private digital freq), digipeater coverage, and the
number of QRP trackers you have. Then throw in your terrain and mix thoroughly.
Some areas will bake cake, and others cookies.

So discuss away ...

73 de Mykle N7JZT

80. RE: [SAR_APRS] Everybody-a-digipeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 20:53:08 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 31 Message: 80

> you can blame me for choosing an alias with more than a
> minimum number of
> characters. Choose "PT" if you want something short

Doesn't matter on the air. Callsigns take up 7 bytes regardless.

Scott
N1VG

81. Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 20:58:14 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 52 Message: 81

--- Tom Hayward <tom@...> wrote:

> I've come to a position where I generally need to
> coordinate between at
> least two agencies (from the field) and carry two
> type accepted radios. I've
> used a number of double cheskpacks, and I favor the
> Conterra Double Adjusta
> Pro. It has nice, wide, comfortable straps and fits
> whatever radios I need.
>
Yeah, I like it for that myself, the cmc harness straps don't seem to be as wide. I wonder what either the cmc or the powerport harness would be like after wearing it for 4-8 hours or so?

My only fault with the Conterra Harness would be no Map pocket, I'll sleep on it before deciding which to get.

Currently I use the TH-D7 (on the left side) and Foretrex 101 GPS (on the right). I've replaced the Stock TH-D7 antenna with a Watson 270 17" Whip. It appears to improve things quite a lot. The GPS seems to work quite well anywhere, but I still tend to sit it up high on the strap at the front of my right shoulder. If it rains just put my jacket on over the whole lot.

Some of our guys have done something similar to Henk, Strapping/Tying the GPS to the inside-top of a rucksack, and putting the radio in a side pocket with the antenna sticking out.

Regards
de John
EI7IG

Send instant messages to your online friends http://uk.messenger.yahoo.com

82. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: Everybody-a-digipeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 20:59:40 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 31 Message: 82

> I musta missed a meeting, as I was unaware that there was support for
> pre-emptive digipeating. I haven't followed all the discussions on
> APRSSIG that might have said something about that. That sounds like
> it could help.

For the Tracker2 (which is what I'm building into my SAR tracker pack) there is. It's also not a problem to make minor changes to the digipeater handling to support SAR-specific stuff.

> A SARn-N portable is first to hear it and pre-emptively digipeats it.
> Is it the packet now limited only to SARn-N digis from this point
> forward? If so, it loses access to the WIDEn-N

Yes. You could put something after the SAR alias, though. Or maybe I could set up the tracker to substitute a new alias. I've been mostly working on the assumption that everything would be indepenent of the 144.39 network.

> But not that much of it. The portables would only digipeat packets
> sent with WIDE1-1,WIDE2-2 paths from stations that they could hear
> directly, not packets they'd picked up off a true WIDE digpeater

I'm also thinking of adding a feature that'd cause portable digis to only kick in if they didn't hear something else digipeat a given packet (that they heard directly) within a second or two. That might not be idea for all situations, though. Say you've got a hill between you and the CP, and two possible digis that can hear each other, but only one can hit the CP. You wouldn't want the one without a link to the CP to be the only one to digipeat your packet.

Scott
N1VG

83. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Everybody-a-digipeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 21:01:42 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 31 Message: 83

On Tue, 31 Oct 2006, Tom Russo wrote:

> I musta missed a meeting, as I was unaware that there was support for
> pre-emptive digipeating.

Tracker2 has that. You can specify multiple aliases and turn
enable/disable the preemptive flag for each one.

> On the other hand, consider this path for a tracker:
>
> WIDE1-1,WIDE2-2,SAR3-3
>
> A SARn-N portable is first to hear it and pre-emptively digipeats it.
> Is it the packet now limited only to SARn-N digis from this point
> forward? If so, it loses access to the WIDEn-N infrastructure again.

Yes. Unless as Mykle said you have the special alias in your
hilltops too. Then you could run "SAR5-5" and forget about it. Or
"WIDE1-1,SAR5-5".

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

84. Re: [SAR_APRS] Everybody-a-digipeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 20:28:47 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 31 Message: 84

>
> Yes. Put them out as SARn-N or something else
> non-standard instead,
> with pre-emptive digipeating enabled.
>
I think this was discussed before (tracker2 list or
maybe xastir?), I like the SARn-N idea, with the SAR
pre-emptive digi's only responding to SARn-N, all
portables configured to use WIDE1-1, SAR7-7 (ok maybe
not 7-7), so the SAR portables get the benefit of
existing infrastructure, but they don't themselves
repeat non SAR traffic.

At least, until I get to test it and see how it works
in practice, I think I like it.

Regards
de John
EI7IG

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85. Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-10-31 23:01:27 UTC
From: David Billstrom
Topic: 52 Message: 85

If we're chiming in with favorites, I'll plug the True North harness. Holds 2 radios plus the GPS, each of the three devices in their own pockets. map pocket (I forget if from side or from the top). I've used I think every brand on the market at some point in the past 20 years and this is hands down the most comfortable. It has stiffners in it that keep it where it is supposed to be, even when active / bending / reaching. You want the mesh, not the nylon. Great strap set up across the back, comfortable even with a close-fitting pack (no buckles on the back).

That said, the radio holders are for large commercial radios (bendix king, etc). There is a new version coming soon that will have an option for smaller ham-type radios, including with clear (fire resistant) vinyl that can be used to access the front keypad, and you'll still be able to have two radios plus the GPS pocket.

Our group buys them from http://www.nationalinterop.com, which doesn't sell on-line but will do mail order. I will confess that not only am I involved with our group, but also with national interop. But you can buy the True North basic model (the one described above) at a number of stores online. Great product.

David.

At 12:58 PM 10/31/2006, Jon wrote:

>--- Tom Hayward <<mailto:tom%40tomh.us>tom@...> wrote:
>
> > I've come to a position where I generally need to
> > coordinate between at
> > least two agencies (from the field) and carry two
> > type accepted radios. I've
> > used a number of double cheskpacks, and I favor the
> > Conterra Double Adjusta
> > Pro. It has nice, wide, comfortable straps and fits
> > whatever radios I need.
> >
>Yeah, I like it for that myself, the cmc harness
>straps don't seem to be as wide. I wonder what either
>the cmc or the powerport harness would be like after
>wearing it for 4-8 hours or so?
>
>My only fault with the Conterra Harness would be no
>Map pocket, I'll sleep on it before deciding which to
>get.
>

>Currently I use the TH-D7 (on the left side) and
>Foretrex 101 GPS (on the right). I've replaced the
>Stock TH-D7 antenna with a Watson 270 17" Whip. It
>appears to improve things quite a lot. The GPS seems
>to work quite well anywhere, but I still tend to sit
>it up high on the strap at the front of my right
>shoulder. If it rains just put my jacket on over the
>whole lot.
>
>Some of our guys have done something similar to Henk,
>Strapping/Tying the GPS to the inside-top of a
>rucksack, and putting the radio in a side pocket with
>the antenna sticking out.
>
>Regards
>de John
>EI7IG
>
>Send instant messages to your online friends
><http://uk.messenger.yahoo.com>http://uk.messenger.yahoo.com
>

David Billstrom 503-793-2793 mobile
Mountain Wave Emerg Comm
Search and Rescue: http://www.mwave.org 1-866-689-2831 for toll-free
24x7 dispatch

86. RE: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 07:49:51 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 52 Message: 86

> One foot resolution implies at least a differential
> configuration (separate
> GPS receiver at a fixed location (within a few 10's of Km?),
> transmitting
> timing corrections that the tracker receives, perhaps on a

I was only referring to the resolution attainable by the transmission format. For that sort of precision, yes, you'd need a differential configuration. Or maybe at least a military type receiver.

The bottom line is that the standard APRS format, and especially Mic-E, aren't capable of reporting positions with the amount of resolution needed to make full use of modern GPS receivers, even without WAAS. For most applications, they're good enough. Base91 provides as much resolution as we should ever need for APRS. OpenTRAC goes for simplicity and efficiency, using a 32-bit integer format because it's convenient and easy to process. It just happens to work out to something on the order of 2 cm resolution.

Scott
N1VG

87. Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 09:16:01 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 52 Message: 87

--- David Billstrom <mw1@...> wrote:

>
> If we're chiming in with favorites, I'll plug the
> True North
> harness. Holds 2 radios plus the GPS, each of the
> three devices in
> their own pockets. map pocket (I forget if from
> side or from the
> top). I've used I think every brand on the market
> at some point in
> the past 20 years and this is hands down the most
> comfortable. It
> has stiffners in it that keep it where it is
> supposed to be, even
> when active / bending / reaching. You want the
> mesh, not the
> nylon. Great strap set up across the back,
> comfortable even with a
> close-fitting pack (no buckles on the back).
>
Sounds good David, is this it?
http://www.truenorthgear.com/product_detail.php?path=1_2&p_id=45
Though it looks liike a 17" Whip on a TH-D7 could poke
you in the eye. Do you have a picture of anyone
wearing a fully equipped harness.

I like the mwave.org website. Do you have any more
information as to how you equipped/designed com2? I
still have it in the back of my head to build a comms
trailer over the winter and am looking for ideas.

I also have an old ARGO 8x8 Response that we have
available to us
(http://static.flickr.com/76/207969100_b2dbd540b6.jpg),
I'm currently thinking of mounting a FT-1500 and an
OpenTracker2 in it. Semi Permenantly/Permenantly. All
ideas greatfully received!

Regards
de John
EI7IG

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88. New Guy

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 14:11:14 UTC
From: Greg Hicks
Topic: 88 Message: 88

Greetings and Good Morning to All from central Indiana!!!

Greg Hicks (K9TLA) here and just joined the group. I know nothing
about APRS, but am involved in SAR (K9 handler & search management).
I know I'll learn somethings here and hopefully can put it to good use.

Later, Greg

89. Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 14:54:09 UTC
From: David Billstrom
Topic: 52 Message: 89

yep, that's the correct harness... of the current generation. a new one is coming (2-3 months away perhaps?) with the vinyl windows.

we usually carry a flexible 1/4 whip for VHF and sometimes even one for UHF in our packs, and then take it out (whip it out?) when range becomes an issue. Although the TN harness comes with the keeper ring on the shoulder to keep the long whips constrained, I personally would never use it while moving because of the eye-poking issue. But many wildland firefighters do.

Com2 is a long story. Com4 is about to start construction now, a 26' long International dual-wheel ambulance (former pediatric transport unit, designed to hold twin babies side by side in matching incubators) and it has far more room than Com2. We hope to re-build Com2 at the same time.

The good thing about Com2 (and Com4) is that former ambulances are a good starting point, with more appropriate suspension and handling characteristics than a motor home / RV (which aren't meant to go fast). Also in comparison to Com1 (a civilian chev suburban) far easier to convert to a TDU (Tactical Dispatch Unit) or TRU (Tactical Relay Unit), starting with an ambulance means you have a good power system infrastructure. The conversion from civilian was costly, error-prone, and took months. We did eventually beef up the power system on Com2. Com4, because of its former life as a long-distance transport unit, comes with what we need..

...which is a power system that
a) is divided into primary and secondary branches. if we must run on batts while the generator is refueled, etc, then we turn off secondary. all the radios are on primary and just a few lights. all the other lights and other 'nice to have but not essential' are on secondary. you get the idea.
b) we run everything, including computers, through 12vdc, and thus through the battery bank. avoid 110vac, since that can be interrupted. computers don't like the interruptions, as you know.

But I digress. Could go on forever.

The one other thing I'll add, which we're doing in Com4, and which we'll re-implement in Com2 if we can find the money, is Radios Never On Shelves. All thsoe radios you see in the Com2 pics (22 in all) were mounted facing the operators, with whiteboard material fronting all of them. the panels are removable to service the radios. Great idea, worked fine for first 2 years. Then we started having, of course, failures/service issues. These are usually discovered while

on scene, operating. The incident dispatchers then have to endure
the techs pulling the whiteboard panels off, and messing with the
radios, right in front of them while they're trying to work!

Radios Go In 19" Racks is our motto now. It calls for consoles or
some method of remoting the control of radios, but is far more
appropriate in an emergency response environment.

I've said too much for the APRS forum; if you want to talk vehicles,
contact me directly.
David.

p.s. yes we use tinytracker2s for tracking search teams in the
field. we keep upping the power and antenna technology to get good
signals, and still are not happy about the perfomance, so it remains
research more than standard procedure...

At 01:16 AM 11/1/2006, you wrote:

>--- David Billstrom <<mailto:mw1%40mwave.org>mw1@...> wrote:
>
> >
> > If we're chiming in with favorites, I'll plug the
> > True North
> > harness. Holds 2 radios plus the GPS, each of the
> > three devices in
> > their own pockets. map pocket (I forget if from
> > side or from the
> > top). I've used I think every brand on the market
> > at some point in
> > the past 20 years and this is hands down the most
> > comfortable. It
> > has stiffners in it that keep it where it is
> > supposed to be, even
> > when active / bending / reaching. You want the
> > mesh, not the
> > nylon. Great strap set up across the back,
> > comfortable even with a
> > close-fitting pack (no buckles on the back).
> >
>Sounds good David, is this it?
><http://www.truenorthgear.com/product_detail.php?path=1_2&p_id=45>http://www.truenorthgea
r.com/product_detail.php?path=1_2&p_id=45
>Though it looks liike a 17" Whip on a TH-D7 could poke
>you in the eye. Do you have a picture of anyone
>wearing a fully equipped harness.
>
>I like the mwave.org website. Do you have any more
>information as to how you equipped/designed com2? I
>still have it in the back of my head to build a comms
>trailer over the winter and am looking for ideas.

>
>I also have an old ARGO 8x8 Response that we have
>available to us
>(<http://static.flickr.com/76/207969100_b2dbd540b6.jpg>http://static.flickr.com/76/207969
100_b2dbd540b6.jpg),
>I'm currently thinking of mounting a FT-1500 and an
>OpenTracker2 in it. Semi Permenantly/Permenantly. All
>ideas greatfully received!
>
>Regards
>de John
>EI7IG
>
>Send instant messages to your online friends
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>

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24x7 dispatch

90. Re: Introduction / intergration question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 15:42:06 UTC
From: L Ellis
Topic: 24 Message: 90

Curt

I understand that Xastir uses a connected Garmin Rino to get
position fixes of other Rinos in the area.

you say
> plot them on the local screen, and create APRS objects which it
> transmits out to APRS stations.

I assuming this secondary transmission occurs over HAM and would
require connecting a second radio in the field to transmit positions
for public APRS tracking on the web.

Am I correct or is there a more efficent way of doing this in the
field other than connecting directly via the internet?

Do you have any recommendations on configurations of HAM with Rino
connections talking to Xastir?

Thanks!
-L

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Curt Mills <archer@...> wrote:
>
> On Sat, 28 Oct 2006, Sean Smith wrote:
>
> > Now for my question, this summer while I was off in Ontario
chasing
> > forest fires the group purchased several Garmin Rinos, is there
> > software other then Dmapper that can take both APRS and Rino
data
> > and display it on a map. Dmapper's limited stations, 6 I believe
> > just doesn't cut it.
>
> Xastir can use an attached RINO radio to poll other RINO radios,
> plot them on the local screen, and create APRS objects which it
> transmits out to APRS stations. There's no limit to the number of
> stations it can track. I've had 39,000+ stations being tracked
> lately.a
>
> See the links section of this group, one of the SAR wiki page that
I
> contribute to talks about the SAR features in the various APRS
> programs, and the APRS Client Capabilities Chart goes into more
> detail.
>
> --

> Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
> http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
> Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
> Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
> The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
>

91. Re: [SAR_APRS] New Guy

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 15:29:11 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 88 Message: 91

For what it's worth, we're ALL new guys!

The list was started on July 8th of this year. Until Oct 26th there were four members. After publishing the list far and wide it quickly grew to 212 members and is still growing (it was 209 when I started composing this message!). Welcome to all of you, and I'm very much looking forward to learning more from this list.

I'm sure Mike the list admin will let us know any rules for the list if/when they are needed. Maybe we'll get lucky and not need any. ;-)

Please take a look at the "links" section for some general APRS links and a few SAR-specific links. Those are a just a few that I find of value. I'm sure there are other useful links we could list.

Please also add to the various Wiki sites for SAR and APRS as well: Without user support the pages will quickly become out of date and useless.

Again, welcome and thanks for coming over and joining our "little" group.

At last count I see four APRS developers and LOTS of SAR people on this list. Pretty cool!

--Curt, just another list member.

Interests/biases: Xastir/SmartPalm developer (open-source APRS apps), WA state SAR member/team leader, mostly work base support. Am currently beta-testing Tracker2's but also own OpenTrackers, TinyTrak-I's and II's, PocketTracker, TNC-X, a HamHUD-IIe, AEA PK-88's, and a dual-port PicoPacket.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

92. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Introduction / intergration question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 15:59:04 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 24 Message: 92

On Wed, 1 Nov 2006, L Ellis wrote:

> I understand that Xastir uses a connected Garmin Rino to get
> position fixes of other Rinos in the area.
>
> you say
> > plot them on the local screen, and create APRS objects which it
> > transmits out to APRS stations.
>
> I assuming this secondary transmission occurs over HAM and would
> require connecting a second radio in the field to transmit positions
> for public APRS tracking on the web.

Yes. In this configuration you'd probably have one of the cheaper RINO's attached to a pole at base with a longish serial cable connecting to an Xastir box inside. You'd then have a 2-meter radio attached to an antenna and TNC, with the TNC attached to Xastir, but the TNC portion in this case can be software-based (like "soundmodem" for Linux or "AGWPE" for Windows).

> Am I correct or is there a more efficent way of doing this in the
> field other than connecting directly via the internet?

There shouldn't be any internet involved. Just two radios, a TNC, an antenna for the 2-meter (the RINO already has an attached antenna), and a PC or Mac running Xastir.

> Do you have any recommendations on configurations of HAM with Rino
> connections talking to Xastir?

I don't recall whether anyone has gotten GPSMan to work under Windows yet. They might have though. The general configuration I'd recommend would be a Linux box running Xastir, with a hardware TNC attached to the 2-meter.

Any more discussion on this should probably be done over on the Xastir list, as this is probably getting too detailed & specific to be of much use to the general list here.

I don't know what the range is on those RINO's either. If you're running under FRS they don't go far. If you're using GMRS, I'm not sure whether the positioning data goes out at the high-power level with those, it might still be at the low-power FRS transmit level. So... They might not be of general interest to SAR if you can't get much range out of them.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

93. Re: [SAR_APRS] Harnesses.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 16:53:34 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 52 Message: 93

> yep, that's the correct harness... of the current
> generation. a new
> one is coming (2-3 months away perhaps?) with the
> vinyl windows.
Ok.. not a biggie for me.
>
> we usually carry a flexible 1/4 whip for VHF and
> sometimes even one
> for UHF in our packs, and then take it out (whip it
> out?) when range
> becomes an issue. Although the TN harness comes
> with the keeper ring
> on the shoulder to keep the long whips constrained,
> I personally
> would never use it while moving because of the
> eye-poking issue. But
> many wildland firefighters do.
>
On the one I currently have, I added a velcro strap
just below the GPS on my left shoulder, it keeps the
antenna from moving about. and its long enough then
that it can't poke me in the eye.

I would leave the long antenna on all of the time.. as
its tough to change antennas in a hailstorm on top of
a mountain :)

> Com2 is a long story. Com4 is about to start
[bigszip]
>
> I've said too much for the APRS forum; if you want
> to talk vehicles,
> contact me directly.
> David.
Will do

Regards
John

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94. Re: Introduction / intergration question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 17:18:14 UTC
From: Tom Russo
Topic: 24 Message: 94

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...> wrote:

> I don't recall whether anyone has gotten GPSMan to work under
> Windows yet. They might have though. The general configuration I'd
> recommend would be a Linux box running Xastir, with a hardware TNC
> attached to the 2-meter.

I think the main problem with GPSMan/Xastir on windows was related to
the "gpsmanshp" plug-in that allows xastir to download shapefile maps
from GPS tracks. This is a shared library that GPSMan uses, and that
doesn't play well with Windows.

GPSMan itself is just a TCL/Tk program, and should work fine without
the gpsmanshp plugin on Windows/Cygwin. That's all that is needed for
the RINO interface, as in this case xastir just reads the .gpstrans
file that gpsman produces directly.

You're right, though, that further discussion of that probably belongs
on the Xastir list instead.

--
Tom Russo KM5VY SAR502 DM64ux http://www.swcp.com/~russo/
Tijeras, NM QRPL#1592 K2#398 SOC#236 http://kevan.org/brain.cgi?DDTNM
"And, isn't sanity really just a one-trick pony anyway? I mean all you
get is
one trick, rational thinking, but when you're good and crazy, oooh, oooh,
oooh, the sky is the limit!" --- The Tick

95. RE: [SAR_APRS] Freq, Path and Platform

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 18:10:07 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 31 Message: 95

I am doing a multi response in this message by modifying one of my messages I posted on another SIG a while ago.

First why you should stick to 144.39 for SAR activities and second go ahead and use a Temp SAR Digi if required by terrain or desired by your group but stick to the standard frequency. The main reason is that when you operate on a different frequency, you will have set up your temporary APRS Digi's before you can use APRS for SAR on every search. That is too time consuming and in the heat of the battle, will probably never happen in time. Getting the searchers out searching is more important than setting up digi's. Don't loose sight of this requirement or your IC will not be willing to accept your APRS technology. Also using different paths might not allow you to use your existing digi network, unless, all the existing digi's in your area are already programmed to accept your special paths ahead of time.

I would suggest that you stick with our standard 144.39 frequency. You can still use your any portable digi or D700 set up as a digi to fill in the gaps and still get all the benefits of the existing local APRS Digi network. Unless you have a "secret" search going, I would also recommend using a path of WIDE1-1 or just direct simplex to stations within simplex range depending on your search terrain and publicity desires. For now we want to publicize that we are using APRS for SAR purposes so if traffic in your area allows it, you might even want to consider the standard path of WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1. Using APRS in SAR is one of the few real uses of APRS and we need to capitalize on that to the rest of our community.

Also keep in mind that active SAR activity is relatively rare and really does not have any long term effect on your local APRS network. If it impacts your local network for a day or two, that is OK. After all, we are in a life saving effort that takes priority to the general APRS hobby.

My original reason for getting into APRS was for that very purpose of integrating APRS into our local SAR activities here in Mason County, WA. We presently have a full time APRS station at our EOC and that was the first full time county EOC on the air in the whole NW if not the entire country. We have a tracker in our ComVan (KB7UVC-1) and in our relay truck (KB7UVC-2). We also have one TH-D7A (KB7UVC-6) for use with a ground SAR team. We have also used APRS in our Annual SAR Mock Search and have used it in a number of actual searches. We have had a tracker on a horse, in a CAP plane, in a Helicopter, in vehicles and on foot teams. Yes, they work great, however, do to the Hi-Tech nature of APRS, it really is only used effectively if I am in Base Camp for the search. That is very unfortunate but something everyone must keep in mind, this stuff is fairly Hi-Tech stuff and it might be difficult in getting others trained up.

My dream has always been to have a tracker with every SAR team. That way we can watch each team on the screen at base camp and at the EOC and get a much better picture of what areas the SAR teams have searched and how well they searched their assigned area. Yes, it is like big brother is watching them and for this application, that is good!

There are various other counties now also using APRS in SAR activities to some degree. Snohomish County, WA is one of them and Curt/WE7U is their guru.

Since most of you are just getting started with this endeavor, I would suggest that you pick a common APRS platform for your entire county. We or I should say I, picked WinAPRS 2.5.1 for our county. The reason I picked that platform was because I was using it and knew it well enough to talk people through setting it up and solving any problems they were encountering. I do this over the radio or phone. It is important to have people in your group who are proficient in running whichever APRS platform you are using for your search. If the operators all run different platforms at home, then there will be problems in running the program at the search site since it might be the first time that operator has seen that program and all the programs are quite different in their features and how to operate them. Any platform will work, but whichever one you pick, your operators must ALL become proficient in that program.

Keep in mind that if the person running APRS in SAR Base during a search, is not proficient in running the program, the IC will not easily accept the concept and worse yet might just decide to totally reject the use of APRS during "his" search.

I will stop rambling on for now, but keep these points in mind in order to make your integration of APRS into your SAR activities a success!

Herb, KB7UVC
Mason County ARES/RACES ex-President & APRS Coordinator

Mason County ComVan: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-1
Mason County Relay Truck: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-2
Mason County EOC: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-3
Mason County Foot Tracker: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-6

Where I am walking: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-7
Where I am driving: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-8
My other vehicle: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-9

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On
> Behalf Of Steven Friis
> Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2006 12:19 PM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Everybody-a-digipeater?
>
>
> Tom Russo wrote:

> > I'm really interested to hear what others think about the
> > everyone-a-digi idea.
> >
> OK, so my bulb may not be the brightest on the string, but here is a
> simple idea that I have.
>
> Put all the SAR units on 144.990 simplex with a single digipeater with a
> good path to the network digipeater on 990 receive and 390 transmit.
> Doing it this way, you can put several units with true TNC's in the
> field, and digipeat within the SAR mission footprint (SIC) all that is
> necessary to get the coverage needed.
>
> Steve
>

96. RE: [SAR_APRS] Freq, Path and Platform

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 19:39:10 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 31 Message: 96

> First why you should stick to 144.39 for SAR activities and
> second go ahead
> and use a Temp SAR Digi if required by terrain or desired by
> your group but
> stick to the standard frequency. The main reason is that
> when you operate
> on a different frequency, you will have set up your temporary
> APRS Digi's

I think this is going to depend a lot on your local situation, and the relationship between the SAR team and those who maintain the APRS network. If 144.39 works for you, then by all means use it. I know that around here the team would be more likely to want to deploy temporary digis in the field, without worrying about interference to the primary network or competing with outside traffic. Hopefully if you're using APRS in SAR, you've got a good working relationship between the local hams (and maybe ARES/RACES) and the team, but I know that's not always the case.

> before you can use APRS for SAR on every search. That is too
> time consuming
> and in the heat of the battle, will probably never happen in
> time. Getting

The local team already tends to drive the portable repeater where it's needed. If a team is heading out on an assignment that takes them over a ridge, they can grab a small portable digi in a Pelican case and drop it at the top of the ridge on their way over. If you've got wide open spaces and can hit the digi from everywhere, that's great. But I've seen way too many calls where there's absolutely no coverage from any fixed infrastructure.

> I would suggest that you stick with our standard 144.39
> frequency. You can

The key word here is OUR. Who 'US' is depends on the local situation.

> Unless you have a "secret" search going, I would also
> recommend using a path
> of WIDE1-1 or just direct simplex to stations within simplex
> range depending

This was something that was brought up repeatedly. I don't know that I've ever been on a 'secret' search (except for maybe a few low-key evidence searches), but there was some concern about the ability of the news media to see where teams were, especially on something sensitive like a body recovery. Adding RFONLY to the path will at least keep it off the Internet.

> plane, in a Helicopter, in vehicles and on foot teams. Yes, they work
> great, however, do to the Hi-Tech nature of APRS, it really
> is only used
> effectively if I am in Base Camp for the search. That is
> very unfortunate
> but something everyone must keep in mind, this stuff is
> fairly Hi-Tech stuff
> and it might be difficult in getting others trained up.

That is a major issue. You have to have the proper people and training to make it work - blindly throwing technology at a problem is not the answer. It's also something I'm personally kind of bitter about. I'll resist the temptation to rant about local politics here, though.

> My dream has always been to have a tracker with every SAR
> team. That way we

One of these days, when RFID technology is better, I'd like to extend that to having tags on every body and every major piece of equipment (rope bag, stokes, etc) and have a reader in each vehicle so that it can inventory itself and report back to the command post. It's too easy to lose track of who and what is where.

Scott
N1VG

97. Re: [SAR_APRS] New Guy

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 20:02:56 UTC
From: goodhopes
Topic: 88 Message: 97

Plese remove me from the list. Very interesting information, but WAY over my head. Thanks
----- Original Message -----
From: Curt, WE7U
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2006 10:29 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] New Guy

For what it's worth, we're ALL new guys!

The list was started on July 8th of this year. Until Oct 26th there were four members. After publishing the list far and wide it quickly grew to 212 members and is still growing (it was 209 when I started composing this message!). Welcome to all of you, and I'm very much looking forward to learning more from this list.

I'm sure Mike the list admin will let us know any rules for the list if/when they are needed. Maybe we'll get lucky and not need any. ;-)

Please take a look at the "links" section for some general APRS links and a few SAR-specific links. Those are a just a few that I find of value. I'm sure there are other useful links we could list.

Please also add to the various Wiki sites for SAR and APRS as well: Without user support the pages will quickly become out of date and useless.

Again, welcome and thanks for coming over and joining our "little" group.

At last count I see four APRS developers and LOTS of SAR people on this list. Pretty cool!

--Curt, just another list member.

Interests/biases: Xastir/SmartPalm developer (open-source APRS apps), WA state SAR member/team leader, mostly work base support. Am currently beta-testing Tracker2's but also own OpenTrackers, TinyTrak-I's and II's, PocketTracker, TNC-X, a HamHUD-IIe, AEA PK-88's, and a dual-port PicoPacket.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

98. RE: [SAR_APRS] New Guy

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 20:05:38 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 88 Message: 98

Links to remove yourself from the list (or change your email settings) are at the bottom of every message.

Scott

_____

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of goodhopes
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2006 12:03 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] New Guy

Plese remove me from the list. Very interesting information, but WAY over my head. Thanks

----- Original Message -----
From: Curt, WE7U <mailto:archer@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2006 10:29 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] New Guy

For what it's worth, we're ALL new guys!

The list was started on July 8th of this year. Until Oct 26th there were four members. After publishing the list far and wide it quickly grew to 212 members and is still growing (it was 209 when I started composing this message!). Welcome to all of you, and I'm very much looking forward to learning more from this list.

I'm sure Mike the list admin will let us know any rules for the list if/when they are needed. Maybe we'll get lucky and not need any. ;-)

Please take a look at the "links" section for some general APRS links and a few SAR-specific links. Those are a just a few that I find of value. I'm sure there are other useful links we could list.

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At last count I see four APRS developers and LOTS of SAR people on this list. Pretty cool!

--Curt, just another list member.

Interests/biases: Xastir/SmartPalm developer (open-source APRS apps), WA state SAR member/team leader, mostly work base support. Am currently beta-testing Tracker2's but also own OpenTrackers, TinyTrak-I's and II's, PocketTracker, TNC-X, a HamHUD-IIe, AEA PK-88's, and a dual-port PicoPacket.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.
<http://www.eskimo.com/~archer> com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

99. RE: [SAR_APRS] Freq, Path and Platform

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 20:32:15 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 31 Message: 99

On Wed, 1 Nov 2006 scott@... wrote:

> Adding RFONLY to the path will at least keep it off the Internet.

Or "NOGATE". Either one should work.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

100. Re: [SAR_APRS] New Guy

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 21:46:27 UTC
From: Matt a
Topic: 88 Message: 100

welcome to the group, any question, just shout someone will definately answer.

----- Original Message ----
From: Greg Hicks <grizhicks@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 1, 2006 9:11:14 AM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] New Guy

Greetings and Good Morning to All from central Indiana!!!

Greg Hicks (K9TLA) here and just joined the group. I know nothing
about APRS, but am involved in SAR (K9 handler & search management).
I know I'll learn somethings here and hopefully can put it to good use.

Later, Greg

101. Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-01 22:26:45 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 31 Message: 101

I suppose I should introduce myself for those who don't know me from other lists.

My whole family's been involved in ham radio and emergency services for many years, and I got started in ARES and SAR at a young age. I spent a few years with the now-defunct Santa Maria Search and Rescue team, and after an absence of a few years rejoined the recently merged Santa Barbara County SAR team. I left the team last year due to lack of time and frustration with county and team politics.

I started experimenting with APRS a few years ago, and developed the OpenTracker as a test platform for the OpenTRAC protocol, which I conceived as a more logically designed alternative to the APRS protocol. It was intended from the start to support SAR operations and incident command in general. It's still got a long way to go and I haven't been working on it much lately, but I'll be picking up work on it again in the not-too-distant future.

The OpenTracker project grew beyond what I'd expected, and it turned into a flexible, general-purpose APRS device. I started Argent Data Systems in 2004 to sell the hardware (and also to give me a vehicle for other embedded programming work), and I'm currently working on getting the successor to the OpenTracker, the Tracker2, ready for release.

I'm also putting a lot of work into producing more integrated APRS devices. I think Kenwood did a lot to make APRS more mainstream with the D7 and D700, but they really stopped short and haven't kept up with it. Right now, if you want to do anything beyond what those radios can do, it generally involves a fair amount of work to integrate trackers, radios, GPS receivers, and so on. I feel that APRS really needs to move beyond the do-it-yourself experimental realm and the limitations of a few good but stagnant (and generally overpriced) off-the-shelf options that are out there now.

Scott
N1VG
(ex 31-Rescue-35 and 32-Rescue-301)

102. RE: [SAR_APRS] Freq, Path and Platform

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 00:58:43 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 31 Message: 102

> First why you should stick to 144.39 for SAR activities
> and second go ahead and use a Temp SAR Digi if required
> by terrain or desired by your group but stick to the
> standard frequency....

For what it is worth, under the New-N Paradigm, remember that I am recommending that ALL Kenwood D700 mobile radios be permanently programmed to support TEMPn-N digipeating. There are many reasons for this:

1) It makes TEMPn-N instantly and ALWAYS available at any time anywhere (where there is a D700)

2) It takes a PC to enable it or disable it and that is usually something that one does not have when they "need it". Hence we want it enabled all the time (in advance) of needing it.

3) It should not be used normally, so therefore it does not impact 144.39 or any other frequency where D700's might be... So it is a no-cost "standby capability"...

4) It makes a GREAT Field-Day application where the rules require everyone to use a "temporary digi" not normally part of the infrastructure for contacts...

5) All you have to do is remember that any D700 can digipeat this at any time, and so if you are in a black hole and cannot get out, then you can alsays try TEMP1-1,WIDE2-2 to see if a nearby D700 can get you out...

Anyway, might be useful to SAR use too for "come-as-you-are" operations.

De WB4APR, Bob

103. RE: [SAR_APRS] Freq, Path and Platform

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 01:14:31 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 31 Message: 103

> For what it is worth, under the New-N Paradigm, remember that I
> am recommending that ALL Kenwood D700 mobile radios be
> permanently programmed to support TEMPn-N digipeating. There
> are many reasons for this:

I keep forgetting about this. I can make TEMP an active alias by default in the Tracker2 if that'd help your cause. All T2s already digipeat on their own calls by default, so you can use any named station as an ad-hoc digi.

Scott
N1VG

104. RE: [SAR_APRS] Freq, Path and Platform

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 01:38:53 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 31 Message: 104

Scott, yes.

Any device that can digipeat, would benefit the community to digipeat TEMPn-N. I think of it as kind of like the original RELAY concept. Everything is capable of it, but it should not be used except when absolutely needed.

DE WB4APR Bob

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of scott@...
> Sent: Wednesday, November 01, 2006 8:15 PM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Freq, Path and Platform
>
> > For what it is worth, under the New-N Paradigm, remember that I
> > am recommending that ALL Kenwood D700 mobile radios be
> > permanently programmed to support TEMPn-N digipeating. There
> > are many reasons for this:
>
> I keep forgetting about this. I can make TEMP an active
> alias by default in
> the Tracker2 if that'd help your cause. All T2s already
> digipeat on their
> own calls by default, so you can use any named station as an
> ad-hoc digi.
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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105. Re: Everybody-a-digipeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 04:59:27 UTC
From: watchtinker
Topic: 31 Message: 105

Hi -

In Josephine County (Oregon) we moved our APRS traffic
to a different frequency. We didn't want all of the
other stations beaconing in the county to interfere
with our traffic. We provide our own portable
digipeater. Terrain here is fairly mountainous, lots
of forest. So far this has worked quite well.

Michael Kelley

We have the perfect Group for you. Check out the handy changes to Yahoo! Groups
(http://groups.yahoo.com)

106. Re: Alternate Antennas for the Kenwood D7A

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 04:51:24 UTC
From: watchtinker
Topic: 31 Message: 106

We use the D7A in the Josephine County Oregon SAR APRS. I found that adding a simple 19" tiger tail to the antenna made a definite improvement. Just crimp a length of wire on a ring terminal, unscrew the antenna, put the ring terminal over the SMA connector and screw the antenna back on. This will help with any antenna. We use a chest pack and found that the wire needs to be threaded through and out the bottom of the radio pouch. I figured this out when I put two packs on snowmobile drivers. The packs came back with just the ring terminal...

Michael Kelley

107. Re: [SAR_APRS] Freq, Path and Platform

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 05:44:34 UTC
From: Eric Christensen
Topic: 31 Message: 107

Bob,
How do you set n-N digipeating in the D700?

Eric KF4OTN

Robert Bruninga wrote:
>> First why you should stick to 144.39 for SAR activities
>> and second go ahead and use a Temp SAR Digi if required
>> by terrain or desired by your group but stick to the
>> standard frequency....
>
> For what it is worth, under the New-N Paradigm, remember that I
> am recommending that ALL Kenwood D700 mobile radios be
> permanently programmed to support TEMPn-N digipeating. There
> are many reasons for this:
>
> 1) It makes TEMPn-N instantly and ALWAYS available at any time
> anywhere (where there is a D700)
>
> 2) It takes a PC to enable it or disable it and that is usually
> something that one does not have when they "need it". Hence we
> want it enabled all the time (in advance) of needing it.
>
> 3) It should not be used normally, so therefore it does not
> impact 144.39 or any other frequency where D700's might be...
> So it is a no-cost "standby capability"...
>
> 4) It makes a GREAT Field-Day application where the rules
> require everyone to use a "temporary digi" not normally part of
> the infrastructure for contacts...
>
> 5) All you have to do is remember that any D700 can digipeat
> this at any time, and so if you are in a black hole and cannot
> get out, then you can alsays try TEMP1-1,WIDE2-2 to see if a
> nearby D700 can get you out...
>
> Anyway, might be useful to SAR use too for "come-as-you-are"
> operations.
>
> De WB4APR, Bob
>
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>
> Yahoo! Groups Links

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>
> From - Thu

108. Tracking search teams

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 11:43:27 UTC
From: radioman040
Topic: 108 Message: 108

I have just joined the group

so appologies if it has recently been covered

I am the comms officer for Cornwall Search & Rescue Group

in the south west of England

We would like to be able to track our search team when out on the ground

I have seen the variouse references to APRS to be used for

this. but have not seen detailed implementation.

Are there any other groups in UK using this system that I could visit

and pick their brains

George

109. Re: [SAR_APRS] Tracking search teams

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 12:16:12 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 108 Message: 109

> Are there any other groups in UK using this system
> that I could visit
>
> and pick their brains
Hi,

Contact Rob Brookes the LDSAMRA Comms Project Officer
(http://www.ldsamra.org.uk/)

Ofcom don't allow APRS on the Marine Band which is
where their (Police Issued) Radios operate, so they
are working with what they have and developing a
solution for their Simoco Radios.

You can probably pick up our APRS digipeaters on
144.800.

Regards
de John
EI7IG

_____
All new Yahoo! Mail "The new Interface is stunning in its simplicity and ease of use." - PC Magazine
http://uk.docs.yahoo.com/nowyoucan.html

110. Do we need a thread on "What is APRS?"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 14:54:41 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 108 Message: 110

The post from the person wanting to unsubscribe yesterday 'cuz it was "over his head" made me think about this. This list was publicized on both amateur radio- and SAR-related lists. Many here will not have had any prior exposure to APRS.

Do we need to start a thread here for beginners? Perhaps a "What is APRS?" or "What use would it be for SAR?" thread?

I think it's needed. Those without interest in the tutorials or beginner questions can simply delete the messages, so it's not a big deal to anyone.

BTW: Beginning questions are very much welcomed here. More than likely others have the same questions but are afraid to ask. Please ask, then we all learn!

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

111. Re: [SAR_APRS] Do we need a thread on "What is APRS?"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 15:10:50 UTC
From: Arnold Shore
Topic: 108 Message: 111

Yes, but my initial reaction is that mebbe that new list cd address the general SAR technology issue, with APRS certainly taking a major, but not sole, part.

(Me, I'm part way through an introduction msg, coming REAL SOON.)

AS

'---

112. Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 15:35:28 UTC
From: Arnold Shore
Topic: 112 Message: 112

Folks, I've been lurking for a bit, but seeing the number of tech-heads already here, I thought mebbe it's time to come out.

I'm not a boots-on-the-ground SAR-er, but I'm working closely with a bud in Fla who's the comm's/tech guy in a K-9 SAR bunch. We're putting together an open-source package that might be of some interest here. While he's the rf/wire/comm's guy, I'm the code walloper; a retired - but recovering! - software developer, with experience going back 40-odd years. My current specialty is web-based applications using PHP/MySQL, free/open source, for use by public safety org's. I'm an unpaid volunteer, giving back.

Of possible interest here is that we're building an app'n that's putting a database underneath a number of ICS forms, and integrating mapping into it. (As a web app'n, it's immediately multi-user, of course, but does require the availability of internet/tcp/ip connectivity.)

I've looked hard at the really excellent effort that's the MS Access-based one put together by the NM SAR crew (other credits are also due I'm sure, but they're the only ones I'm aware of). Our mapping function is based on the integration of Google's maps API, so that the using agency will have that capability almost right out of the box. While GMaps shows roads and satellite/hybrid views, it doesn't (yet, anyway) provide topo, which we'll be looking at re just how best to include that.

Reactions invited (not excluding 'Get outa here!') Thanks, all.

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD
unaffiliated

113. RE: [SAR_APRS] Do we need a thread on "What is APRS?"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 16:12:51 UTC
From: Rich & Barb
Topic: 108 Message: 113
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Hi Curt -
Agree on the beginners thread. We pretty much fall into that category. Our SAR team is just getting up to speed, slowly, on APRS.
Thanks again for kicking this off...
Rich
KE6DIY
Morongo Basin SAR

114. How do I sell the local S&R on APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 17:01:38 UTC
From: DESloan@aol.com
Topic: 114 Message: 114

Hello all. I am not directly involved with our local S&R, but I do know several of them. I have been involved with APRS for a while. Locally APRS is not very active at this time. Should I contact the local S&R (we have one here for El Paso county, CO.) about using APRS or should I wait fro them to decide to start using it? When S&R uses APRS do they do it on their frequencies or on ham freqs? Does anyone have a PP set up to present to a S&R group that I could use? Doubt that this is all of the questions but, I can't think of any more at this time. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions please let me know.

73,
Dave N0EOP

115. Re: [SAR_APRS] How do I sell the local S&R on APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 17:20:07 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 114 Message: 115

On Thu, 2 Nov 2006 DESloan@... wrote:

> Hello all. I am not directly involved with our local S&R, but I do know
> several of them. I have been involved with APRS for a while. Locally APRS is not
> very active at this time. Should I contact the local S&R (we have one here
> for El Paso county, CO.) about using APRS or should I wait fro them to decide
> to start using it? When S&R uses APRS do they do it on their frequencies or
> on ham freqs? Does anyone have a PP set up to present to a S&R group that I
> could use? Doubt that this is all of the questions but, I can't think of any
> more at this time. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions please let me know.

A buddy of mine, also on this list (KB7UVC), teaches with a
PowerPoint slide at some of the APRS and SAR get-togethers, so yes,
they do exist.

A friend in the Philadelphia area has a very nice slideshow in
OpenOffice Impress. Are you on this list Paul?

See also this page:

<http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/xastir/SAR.html>

Which is one of my web pages and entirely based on Xastir, but gives
a bit of a feel for some of the things you can do with APRS in SAR.

As far as whether to contact SAR or wait, I chose to join SAR to
push APRS. Herb did the same in his county. Whether that's
effective either, hard to say yet. This stuff takes time.

It can be done on commercial SAR frequencies or on ham frequencies.
You know the rules for ham frequencies I'm sure.

For commercial freq's they have to have the proper emissions mode
designated for their particular license. In our county we don't.
I believe it's F2D emissions classification that they need. From my
reading of the commercial rules, that emissions mode is allowed on
the band. Each license has emissions modes listed though. If it's
not there, they need to go through the process to add it.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

116. RE: [SAR_APRS] Freq, Path and Platform

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 18:13:34 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 31 Message: 116

> Bob,
> How do you set TEMPn-N digipeating in the D700?

Use a laptop and set the parameters while in PACKET MODE to:

UITRACE TEMP,10

Hopefully that will do it. And hopefully that remains on even
when the radio is put back in APRS mode. Though I have not
personally done 100% confirmation that it remains operational in
APRS as well as pACKET mode. I did the test (I think) but do
not remember the results...

Bob

> Eric KF4OTN
>
>
>
> Robert Bruninga wrote:
> >> First why you should stick to 144.39 for SAR activities
> >> and second go ahead and use a Temp SAR Digi if required
> >> by terrain or desired by your group but stick to the
> >> standard frequency....
> > >
> > > For what it is worth, under the New-N Paradigm, remember
that I
> > > am recommending that ALL Kenwood D700 mobile radios be
> > > permanently programmed to support TEMPn-N digipeating.
There
> > > are many reasons for this:
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> > > 1) It makes TEMPn-N instantly and ALWAYS available at any
time
> > > anywhere (where there is a D700)
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> > > 2) It takes a PC to enable it or disable it and that is
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> > > something that one does not have when they "need it". Hence
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> > > want it enabled all the time (in advance) of needing it.
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> > > 3) It should not be used normally, so therefore it does not
> > > impact 144.39 or any other frequency where D700's might
be...
> > > So it is a no-cost "standby capability"...

> >
> > 4) It makes a GREAT Field-Day application where the rules
> > require everyone to use a "temporary digi" not normally part
of
> > the infrastructure for contacts...
> >
> > 5) All you have to do is remember that any D700 can digipeat
> > this at any time, and so if you are in a black hole and
cannot
> > get out, then you can alsays try TEMP1-1,WIDE2-2 to see if a
> > nearby D700 can get you out...
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> > Anyway, might be useful to SAR use too for "come-as-you-are"
> > operations.
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> > De WB4APR, Bob
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> > Yahoo! Groups Links
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> > From - Thu
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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117. RE: [SAR_APRS] How do I sell the local S&R on APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 18:21:07 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 114 Message: 117

Since the presentation is on Curt's Web site, I was waiting for him to provide the link. But since he did not, I am posting my wrap-up message from this year's WA SAR Conference here. It contains the link for our Power Point presentation and our hand outs.

Feel free to use it to show your local SAR groups the capabilities of APRS. Feel free to modify the presentation as needed to fit your local applications.

To get APRS integrated into your local SAR activities, it really takes a person active in SAR and respected by your local SAR groups AND the Management of the organization in charge of conducting Search and Rescue activities in your area including your IC (Incident Commander) who is in charge of your Searches. It is difficult to just try to give a presentation and expect them to accept this concept. It takes a lot of hard work and time on the person spearheading this effort. And don't forget, it also takes lots of $$$$ which no one has or is not willing to put in the budget. In my county, Mason County, WA, I have been trying for many years and have only partially succeeded. Yes our ComVan has a tracker which they do turn on every time it leaves the "barn" and our EOC has an APRS station running 24/7, BUT, that is about the extent of it. During my efforts of trying to get our local Sheriff's Dept to integrate APRS into their SAR activities, the Chief in charge of SAR, changed the communication's support group and is no longer allowing me in SAR Base. Without my or someone else's influence in SAR Base during the searches, APRS has taken a back seat in our county. Oh well, all I can do is keep trying/pushing them in that direction and as the SAR Chief put it: "You are too overbearing and that is why I am not including you in my new communications group!" So keep that in mind, you do not want to push so hard as to alienate yourself from their management.

Herb, KB7UVC
Mason County ARES/RACES ex-President & APRS Coordinator

Mason County ComVan: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-1
Mason County Relay Truck: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-2
Mason County EOC: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-3
Mason County Foot Tracker: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-6

Where I am walking: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-7
Where I am driving: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-8
My other vehicle: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-9

-----Original Message-----
From: Herb Gerhardt [mailto:hgerhardt@...]
Sent: Monday, May 29, 2006 9:52 PM
To: SIG, nwaprssig

Cc: Sar-Aprs; TAPR APRS Mailing List; wadec@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [sar-aprs] 2006 WA SAR Conf Wrap-up

Curt WE7U and myself, Herb KB7UVC, gave an APRS Presentation to the SAR Folks at the 2006 WA SAR Conference at the King County Fair Grounds in Enumclaw, WA on May 19, 20 & 21. The Annual WA SAR Conference is the BIGGEST SAR Conference in the world with well over 1000 attending every year. This year we had seven people from Iceland attending the conference and they got the award for traveling the farthest to attend this conference. We had a number of units from the Canadian Provinces, from at least 14 US States and 26 WA Counties represented.

Curt and I gave a two hour presentation on Friday afternoon, then a one hour presentation on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Between the three presentations we had well over 60 SAR folks attending with some really good questions. I believe we will have a few more counties investigate the use of APRS trackers during their local SAR activities. It has been my dream to get APRS integrated into local SAR activities. As a matter of fact, that was THE reason why I got into APRS in 1998 and needless to say, I got hooked!

Our Power Point presentation and two handouts are available for viewing and downloading at:

http://wetnet.net/~we7u/

Then go down to "Miscellaneous Links" and select the item of your choice:

WASAR 2006 Presentation: "Radio Tracking Your SAR Teams" ,
WASAR 2006 Handout: "Radio Tracking Your SAR Teams" ,
Brochure: "GETTING_STARTED_WITH_APRS" .

Enjoy and feel free to use this material in your local APRS presentations.

Herb, KB7UVC
NW APRS Group, West Sound Coordinator
Our WEB Site: http://www.nwaprs.info

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On
> Behalf Of Curt, WE7U
> Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2006 9:20 AM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] How do I sell the local S&R on APRS
> >
> A buddy of mine, also on this list (KB7UVC), teaches with a
> PowerPoint slide at some of the APRS and SAR get-togethers, so yes,
> they do exist.
> >
> As far as whether to contact SAR or wait, I chose to join SAR to
> push APRS. Herb did the same in his county. Whether that's
> effective either, hard to say yet. This stuff takes time.

>

118. Re: [SAR_APRS] How do I sell the local S&R on APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 18:37:10 UTC
From: Arnold Shore
Topic: 114 Message: 118

Seeing as how it's essentially a marketing/sales problem, fall back on some of old tried and true-ies: Like "Sales-wise, a problem looking for a solution beats the heck out of a solution lokking for a problem".

Any acknowledged problems/challenges in that shop?

AS

119. Re: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-02 23:30:23 UTC
From: Matt a
Topic: 112 Message: 119

arnie you mention ip, some sar's have no connectivity in the field. How would gmaps work?

----- Original Message ----
From: Arnold Shore <3ashore@Comcast.net>
To: csar@yahoogroups.com; SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2006 10:35:28 AM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Folks, I've been lurking for a bit, but seeing the number of tech-heads already here, I thought mebbe it's time to come out.

I'm not a boots-on-the- ground SAR-er, but I'm working closely with a bud in Fla who's the comm's/tech guy in a K-9 SAR bunch. We're putting together an open-source package that might be of some interest here. While he's the rf/wire/comm' s guy, I'm the code walloper; a retired - but recovering! - software developer, with experience going back 40-odd years. My current specialty is web-based applications using PHP/MySQL, free/open source, for use by public safety org's. I'm an unpaid volunteer, giving back.

Of possible interest here is that we're building an app'n that's putting a database underneath a number of ICS forms, and integrating mapping into it. (As a web app'n, it's immediately multi-user, of course, but does require the availability of internet/tcp/ ip connectivity.)

I've looked hard at the really excellent effort that's the MS Access-based one put together by the NM SAR crew (other credits are also due I'm sure, but they're the only ones I'm aware of). Our mapping function is based on the integration of Google's maps API, so that the using agency will have that capability almost right out of the box. While GMaps shows roads and satellite/hybrid views, it doesn't (yet, anyway) provide topo, which we'll be looking at re just how best to include that.

Reactions invited (not excluding 'Get outa here!') Thanks, all.

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD
unaffiliated

120. Re: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 12:08:57 UTC
From: Arnold Shore
Topic: 112 Message: 120

Matt, you're right, by the nature of the beast it can't work w/o such connectivity. But none of us had ip until a while ago, so time will help solve that one. (The thought is to " ... skate to where the puck's going to be.")

And, no 'solution' can fit every case. If this cd work for any team, then great; that's why we're doing it.

AS

----- Original Message -----
From: Matt a
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2006 6:30 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

arnie you mention ip, some sar's have no connectivity in the field. How would gmaps work?

----- Original Message ----
From: Arnold Shore <3ashore@Comcast.net>
To: csar@yahoogroups.com; SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2006 10:35:28 AM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Folks, I've been lurking for a bit, but seeing the number of tech-heads already here, I thought mebbe it's time to come out.

I'm not a boots-on-the- ground SAR-er, but I'm working closely with a bud in Fla who's the comm's/tech guy in a K-9 SAR bunch. We're putting together an open-source package that might be of some interest here. While he's the rf/wire/comm' s guy, I'm the code walloper; a retired - but recovering! - software developer, with experience going back 40-odd years. My current specialty is web-based applications using PHP/MySQL, free/open source, for use by public safety org's. I'm an unpaid volunteer, giving back.

Of possible interest here is that we're building an app'n that's putting a database underneath a number of ICS forms, and integrating mapping into it. (As a web app'n, it's immediately multi-user, of course, but does require the availability of internet/tcp/ ip connectivity.)

I've looked hard at the really excellent effort that's the MS Access-based one put together by the NM SAR crew (other credits are also due I'm sure, but they're the only ones I'm aware of). Our mapping function is based on the integration of Google's maps API, so that the using agency will have that capability almost right out of the box. While GMaps shows roads and satellite/hybrid views, it doesn't (yet, anyway) provide topo, which we'll be looking at re just how best to include that.

Reactions invited (not excluding 'Get outa here!') Thanks, all.

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD
unaffiliated

121. Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 14:07:04 UTC
From: bruce_smith@ncci.com
Topic: 121 Message: 121

Curt, WE7U;

I think you are correct, a down to basics would be great. I have read so many different articles, I'm unclear as to what is the status of APRS and what version to use.

While, I am a ham, KD4GWL, most of my tech time is spent on Civil Air Patrol Projects. I would really like to correspond with some folks that have working solutions for CAP or those that could be adapted to CAP. I don't know how many of you know the problems CAP is having lately with a typical mission involving silencing of a distress signal (ELT, EPIRB or PLB). First, the number of active SAR Satellites has decreased and as a result the quality of target site information is poor. In South Florida with an average of a mission a day, most target sites are from merged data, which means the target site has been calculated from data collected from more than one active target site. To complicate this even further, the target signal may not be from a distress beacon, but a signal generated from some defective device. I am an IC for CAP and have had many missions with target sites more than 100 miles apart. Of course, this is almost an impossible task without aircover and many of our search days in this area are non-flyable due to weather. To complicate things further the signals come from airports, marinas, device manufactures, airboats in the Everglades, aircraft crash sites and etc. I am lucky that we have several very experienced UDF members and we usually are able to complete these missions. My plan for the local area is to outfit my DF Teams and selected fixed sites (Mission Bases) with RDF Equipment that uses APRS and target bearing data to improve our response time and overall effectiveness. While I believe the Byonics RDF unit and APRS is a solution, for a volunteer unit, the equipping and implementation of this plan is extremely hard and time consuming. So I need all the help I can muster and hopefully some of you have learned some tricks you are willing to pass on.

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing some of your thoughts.

Bruce P. Smith, LtCol., CAP
Commander, Group 6, Florida Wing
FLCAP 600, KD4GWL

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distribution, or copying of this message is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately by e-mail, and delete the original message.

122. Re: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 15:36:32 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 121 Message: 122

Bruce,

I have been discussing a method of locating ELT's with a few of my CAP/Ham cohorts. The basic idea is that we would use OpenTrackers configured as fixed beacons in key locations, such as airports, marinas, FBO's etc. These units would monitor 121.5 When a signal is detected, the OpenTracker would report the signal acquisition, and a signal strength margin of between 1 and 255. This would let us see and distinguish between ELTs going off on the ramp, or just within range of an airport/marina, buoy, or whatever. We would be able to graphically display concentric "range " circles on an APRS map.

Existing digipeaters having an analog data input could be configured in this way as well, requiring only an ELT receiver to upgrade them.

Mountain-top, solar powered ELT "spy stations" could provide large, concentric, non directional intelligence about ELT activations, and we could use overlapping circles to predict positions fairly well with a little bit of practice. Logging short term activations (distress calls on "Guard") could provide good intelligence about lost AC without ELT activations.

The plan would have to use the Ham digipeaters, since CAP's own digital network is more or less a thing of the past. On the other hand, as a Ham project, we could use an nation-wide extant infrastructure.

Since CAP cannot use ham frequencies, what frequencies did you plan to use for CAP APRS? Your standard repeater inputs? I am sure it would be possible to monitor the data-only from the local repeaters and port it over to the "real" APRS network (But only as a ham project....) (The FOUO police are coming to my house to kill me right now....)

I developed a low-cost ELT receiver kit for CAP (They did not sell well, most CAP people are too afraid of electronic kits) The CAWG Magazine, the Eagle Call printed an article I wrote about my ELT receiver kit, I will post it to the files section of this group with the Group Owners permission. In my "free time", I plan to develop a combination of my ELT receiver and Micro-Trak 300.

73
Allen
KG6HXO

123. Re: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 14:42:45 UTC
From: Arnold Shore
Topic: 121 Message: 123

Folks, I don't recall seeing any reference to it here, but there's some basic APRS information on the wikipedia at

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic_Position_Reporting_System

I'll note that they're asking for some expert attention.

AS

124. New file uploaded to SAR_APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 15:58:31 UTC
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 124 Message: 124

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the SAR_APRS
group.

File : /An Altoids Box ELT Receiver.doc
Uploaded by : vhsproducts <CaptALord@...>
Description : ELT Receiver article

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAR_APRS/files/An%20Altoids%20Box%20ELT%20Receiver.doc

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/help/us/groups/files

Regards,

vhsproducts <CaptALord@...>

125. RE: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 16:11:06 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 121 Message: 125

The Tracker2 will be able to do this and act as a digipeater and/or weather station at the same time. I could do both the omni DF and weather functions in the OpenTracker with a little more coding. I think it'd be worth the fairly small extra expense to go with the T2 and be able to use it as at least a fill-in digipeater as needed.

That 6-watt transceiver I mentioned could theoretically be retuned to cover 121.5 for RX. Might lose the top end of the 2-meter band in the process, though. But the radio has a signal strength output, and would only take some tens of milliseconds to switch to 121.5 and listen for a signal. Put one of these (with a solar panel, battery, and anemometer) on a pole on various mountaintops and you'd have a good multi-purpose APRS network.

Scott
N1VG

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of CaptALord@...
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2006 7:37 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Bruce,

I have been discussing a method of locating ELT's with a few of my CAP/Ham cohorts. The basic idea is that we would use OpenTrackers configured as fixed beacons in key locations, such as airports, marinas, FBO's etc. These units would monitor 121.5 When a signal is detected, the OpenTracker would report the signal acquisition, and a signal strength margin of between 1 and 255. This would let us see and distinguish between ELTs going off on the ramp, or just within range of an airport/marina, buoy, or whatever. We would be able to graphically display concentric "range " circles on an APRS map.

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The plan would have to use the Ham digipeaters, since CAP's own digital network is more or less a thing of the past. On the other hand, as a Ham project, we could use an nation-wide extant infrastructure.

Since CAP cannot use ham frequencies, what frequencies did you plan to use for CAP APRS? Your standard repeater inputs? I am sure it would be possible to monitor the data-only from the local repeaters and port it over to the "real" APRS network (But only as a ham project....) (The FOUO police are coming to my house to kill me right now....)

I developed a low-cost ELT receiver kit for CAP (They did not sell well, most CAP people are too afraid of electronic kits) The CAWG Magazine, the Eagle Call printed an article I wrote about my ELT receiver kit, I will post it to the files section of this group with the Group Owners permission. In my "free time", I plan to develop a combination of my ELT receiver and Micro-Trak 300.

73
Allen
KG6HXO

126. Re: [CSAR] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 15:06:01 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 112 Message: 126

On Thu, 2 Nov 2006, Arnold Shore wrote:

> I'm not a boots-on-the-ground SAR-er, but I'm working closely with
> a bud in Fla who's the comm's/tech guy in a K-9 SAR bunch. We're
> putting together an open-source package that might be of some
> interest here. While he's the rf/wire/comm's guy, I'm the code
> walloper; a retired - but recovering! - software developer, with
> experience going back 40-odd years.

That's a very long addiction. What's the recovery rate?

You mention open-source but not the license. If it's GPL, you're
welcome to borrow code from the Xastir project. We support USGS DRG
geoTIFF topo's locally, and Microsoft Terraserver Topo's if you have
online access. Even if yours is not GPL but some other, you can
certainly learn from our algorithms and re-implement cleanly under
your license.

<http://www.xastir.org>

> Of possible interest here is that we're building an app'n that's
> putting a database underneath a number of ICS forms, and
> integrating mapping into it. (As a web app'n, it's immediately
> multi-user, of course, but does require the availability of
> internet/tcp/ip connectivity.)

Consider also E-gads, which is an open-source package to do some of
the management things:

<http://e-gads.sourceforge.net/>

Perhaps also the SORAL library:

<http://sarbayes.org/projects.shtml>

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

127. Re: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 16:44:51 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 121 Message: 127

Scott,

There is no doubt in my mind that the controller would be an OpenTracker.
First, it has an analog input, second, it supports fixed beacon operation,
third, it will handle digipeating. I would suggest though, that we use a separate
ELT receiver and not switch between transmit/ receive-APRS/Receive ELT .
This might cause us to miss short duration ELT signals. I envision scenarios,
especially on mountaintop monitoring stations, where an ELT may be activated,
but silenced quickly by fire, or secondary impacts as the AC slides down
mountains. Rapid detection could be a critical factor. I will donate an ELT
receiver if you want to build a test unit. Anybody have a mountain top we can use?

Allen

128. RE: [SAR_APRS] How do I sell the local S&R on APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 16:33:45 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 114 Message: 128

On Thu, 2 Nov 2006, Herb Gerhardt wrote:

> Since the presentation is on Curt's Web site, I was waiting for him to
> provide the link. But since he did not, I am posting my wrap-up message
> from this year's WA SAR Conference here. It contains the link for our Power
> Point presentation and our hand outs.

I'm dense today. Should have thought to do that. Thanks for
posting that info Herb.

Here's a link to Paul's OpenOffice slideshow, which is an OpenOffice
Impress presentation:

<http://data.acnatsci.org/temp/aprs_for_gpsar_plug_1.odp>

It's not guaranteed to stick around there though, so if you'd like
to see it, snag it sometime soon.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

129. Re: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 17:24:51 UTC
From: kc2mmi
Topic: 112 Message: 129

"arnie you mention ip, some sar's have no connectivity in the field. How would gmaps work?"

Since a field deployment usually will be to a fairly small area, and the whole resources of Google Maps not required, what about providing for an "offline surrogate"?

Cache the data for the mission site on a local computer, use Wifi to push it out locally in the field. Put an option in the program code to "Use local surrogate" when there's no access to the web. Off the top of my non-programmer's head...that could use a private IP address, or someone could apply for a dedicated 44.x.x.x ham address and keep that address *off* the real internet, so lookups would always fall to a local surrogate server if it was available.

Won't solve the problem of Google Maps sometimes being a bit intensive...would allow automatic shift to a surrogate?

Or perhaps, get two dozen cheap USB memory sticks, and use those as well to locally distribute data in the field?

KC2MMI
Jared

130. RE: [SAR_APRS] Basics (Signal Finding)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 17:46:17 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 121 Message: 130

> the quality of target site information is poor. ...
> I am lucky that we have several very experienced
> UDF members and we usually are able to complete
> these missions.
>
> My plan for the local area is to outfit my DF Teams
> and selected fixed sites (Mission Bases) with RDF
> Equipment that uses APRS and target bearing data to
> improve our response time and overall effectiveness.

Using RDF gear for SAR is fortunately a very good approach since the teams are well organized, equipped and know what they are doing. But for what it is worth, in case you are not aware of it, APRS was designed to also use the lowest common denominator of RDF techniques that assumed no one has anything but a simple radio. (without any RDF gear). Of course, APRS supports beam headings, doppler DF and automatic interfaces to same, but again, most often, no one ever has that stuff available on the come-as-you-are try-to-find-the-jammer scenario.

Therefore APRS has built-in the CAP Fade circle technique, that any mobile with just a simple radio can use to home in on a signal. I give demos where I tie a rubber band around an HT and leave it in a field a few miles away on my way to a ARC club meeting. Then after teaching everyone about the CAP fade circle technique, I challenge them on their way home, to find my HT.

Usually it takes less than 15 minutes to find the HT on signal strength alone. AND they are not actually using ANY APRS, or RDF equipment or any tools nor any mnaps.... Just their own head and their mobile radio or HT. The FADE-CIRLE technique is an -individual- technique. One person alone, can use it to find a signal source. Multiple people using it can do it too.

But for multiple simultaneous searching, APRS also has the OMNI-SIGNAL reporting technique too which can localize a signal to a mile or two in seconds if enough stations report their signal strenghts and positions. This also works very well.

See all about these NON-EQUIPPED RDF techniques in APRS on the web page:

http://www.ew.usna.edu/~bruninga/dfing.html

The good news, is that these techniques cost nothing. Require no additional equipment other than a radio, and WORK when used by thinking people... And are always available...

Anyway, for what it's worth.
Bob, WB4APR

131. Re: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 16:54:22 UTC
From: VE7GDH
Topic: 121 Message: 131

Scott N1VG wrote...

> That 6-watt transceiver I mentioned could theoretically be retuned to
> cover 121.5 for RX. Might lose the top end of the 2-meter band in the
> process, though. But the radio has a signal strength output...

Is the 121.5 MHz beacon that Allen KG6HXO was talking about using AM
or FM? However, the signal strength function might still work OK.

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

132. Re: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 18:10:43 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 121 Message: 132

Keith,

My ELT receiver is FM, with a wide range RSSI output. Check out the files section for a description of the unit. FM receivers have no problem hearing the AM ELT signal, but commercial transceivers are not good receivers for 100 mW transmitters! Hamtronics makes a good AM Aircraft receiver with an RSSI output, but it is big and expensive. Nice features though.

Allen

133. RE: [SAR_APRS] Basics (Signal Finding)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 18:18:13 UTC
From: bruce_smith@ncci.com
Topic: 121 Message: 133

Bob,

Thank you very much. At the present time we are basically using the circle method and want to move on to APRS and Doppler DF, due to the number of missions with multiple sites and now having to support local law enforcement for finding PLBs. The later is becoming more pressing as these are opened as Missing Person Missions and are defintely time constrained. As you probably know and not to lessen the response but 99.9% of our AF Missions are non-distress and after you have 400+ of those per year your troops aren't as eager as you would wish. I hope by turning up the technology we can make quicker and better decisions to ensure complete mission closures and allow the troops the satisfaction of a job well done with less time spent in the field and more with their families.

Bruce

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134. RE: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 18:01:15 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 121 Message: 134

> I have been discussing a method of locating ELT's with a few
> of my CAP/Ham cohorts. The basic idea is that we would use
> OpenTrackers configured as fixed beacons in key locations,
> such as airports, marinas, FBO's etc. These units would
> monitor 121.5 When a signal is detected, the OpenTracker
> would report the signal acquisition, and a signal strength
> margin of between 1 and 255. This would let us see and
> distinguish between ELTs going off on the ramp, or just
> within range of an airport/marina, buoy, or whatever. We
> would be able to graphically display concentric "range "
> circles on an APRS map.

The protocol for this kind of omni-signal strenght reporting was built into APRS from the beginning, so this is certainly easy to do. I welcome such a plan...! The existing format accepts a signal strenght in the range of 0 to 9 which is more than adequate.... Especially since the majority of reports actually report zero signal (nothing heard). And this is VERY VALUABLE since it shows all the greater area that does NOT hear the signal. This very qickly eliminates 90% of most areas...

Then all it takes is a few weak signals heard to further narrow it down. APRS alredy is designed to plot the overlaping signal strength contours to make it very easy to visualize the signal source. So signal reports on a subjective 0 to 9 are adequate for this task. Besides, there is so much variation in signal strength, that trying to refine it to 1 in 255 adds little significance.

See the aformentioned APRS DF web page:
http://www.ew.usna.edu/~bruninga/dfing.html

De Wb4APR, Bob

>
> Existing digipeaters having an analog data input could be
> configured in this way as well, requiring only an ELT
> receiver to upgrade them.
>
> Mountain-top, solar powered ELT "spy stations" could provide
> large, concentric, non directional intelligence about ELT
> activations, and we could use overlapping circles to predict
> positions fairly well with a little bit of practice. Logging
> short term activations (distress calls on "Guard") could
> provide good intelligence about lost AC without ELT
activations.

>
> The plan would have to use the Ham digipeaters, since CAP's
> own digital network is more or less a thing of the past. On
> the other hand, as a Ham project, we could use an nation-wide
> extant infrastructure.
>
> Since CAP cannot use ham frequencies, what frequencies did
> you plan to use for CAP APRS? Your standard repeater inputs?
> I am sure it would be possible to monitor the data-only from
> the local repeaters and port it over to the "real" APRS
> network (But only as a ham project....) (The FOUO police
> are coming to my house to kill me right now....)
>
> I developed a low-cost ELT receiver kit for CAP (They did
> not sell well, most CAP people are too afraid of electronic
> kits) The CAWG Magazine, the Eagle Call printed an article I
> wrote about my ELT receiver kit, I will post it to the files
> section of this group with the Group Owners permission. In my
> "free time", I plan to develop a combination of my ELT
> receiver and Micro-Trak 300.
>
> 73
> Allen
> KG6HXO
>
>
>
>

135. Re: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 18:56:04 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 121 Message: 135

Bob,

I use the RSSI strength as 1-255 because that is what the OpenTracker analog input codes a 0-5 volt RSSI signal. I am sure that it can be parsed into 10 segments. The actual method by which the coded analog data is introduced in to the APRS circular DF filed is beyond me. I will leave that to Scott!

In Northern California, 99 and 99/100ths of the ELT signals will be false alarms. With an enormous satellite circular (actually elliptical) error probability, just being able to determine whether an ELT signal is detectable on an airport ramp will help eliminate the "cry wolf" signals. When the SARSATs stop listening to 121.5 in a few years, a system that can monitor the low power 121.5 beacons (Which will still be utilized in the gee-whiz GPS encoded satellite uplink ELTs) A system like this could be a literal life saver.

Given our mountainous terrain, Circular DF techniques have tremendous benefits when operating Airborne. The Civil Air Patrol is somewhat handicapped by not being able to use the APRS network on actual Air Force missions, so we would need to use our own frequencies. We have VHF repeaters that more or less cover the whole world (at least while airborne) I envision this as a stand-alone CAP network, rather than a Ham supported network. Your thoughts?

Allen, Capt. USAF-AUX
KG6HXO
Y 222

136. RE: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 19:24:18 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 112 Message: 136

Is there any existing software to do this? So far the best I've been able to do is turn the cache size up to the maximum and try to pre-load what I want. I'd love to be able to download a specified area at a particular resolution. I don't mind allocating 40 GB of hard drive space if I can get a good portion of the county.

Scott

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of kc2mmi
> Sent: Friday, November 03, 2006 9:25 AM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction
>
> "arnie you mention ip, some sar's have no connectivity in the
> field. How would
> gmaps work?"
>
> Since a field deployment usually will be to a fairly small
> area, and the whole
> resources of Google Maps not required, what about providing
> for an "offline
> surrogate"?
>
> Cache the data for the mission site on a local computer, use
> Wifi to push it out
> locally in the field. Put an option in the program code to
> "Use local surrogate"
> when there's no access to the web. Off the top of my non-programmer's
> head...that could use a private IP address, or someone could
> apply for a
> dedicated 44.x.x.x ham address and keep that address *off*
> the real internet, so
> lookups would always fall to a local surrogate server if it
> was available.
>
> Won't solve the problem of Google Maps sometimes being a bit
> intensive...would
> allow automatic shift to a surrogate?
>
> Or perhaps, get two dozen cheap USB memory sticks, and use
> those as well to
> locally distribute data in the field?
>

> KC2MMI
> Jared
>
>
>
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>
>
>
>

137. RE: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 19:33:56 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 112 Message: 137

On Fri, 3 Nov 2006 scott@... wrote:

> Is there any existing software to do this? So far the best I've been able
> to do is turn the cache size up to the maximum and try to pre-load what I
> want. I'd love to be able to download a specified area at a particular
> resolution. I don't mind allocating 40 GB of hard drive space if I can get
> a good portion of the county.

I've got my entire county's shapefiles (roads) and USGS DRG topos, plus
the operating system itself, the APRS program, the weather alert
Shapefiles, and the FCC callsign database loaded up on a 6.4GB drive
in a mobile computer. It's the only hard drive in there.

Do you really need 40GB to get all of your county? Perhaps your
counties are bigger down there in CA?

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

138. RE: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 20:36:40 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 121 Message: 138

> I use the RSSI strength as 1-255 because that is what the
> OpenTracker analog input codes a 0-5 volt RSSI signal. I am
> sure that it can be parsed into 10 segments. The actual
> method by which the coded analog data is introduced in to the
> APRS circular DF filed is beyond me. I will leave that to
Scott!

Thanks, but since there is already an on-air standard APRS data format for DF signal reports, then any such device should use that existing format so that existing software can plot it directly instead of coming up with a unique opentracker format to do the same thing...

> In Northern California, 99 and 99/100ths of the ELT signals
> will be false alarms.

Yes, and that is why having one of these at each airport will go a very long way towards quickly isolating many of those. That was the original concept of the omni-DF signal report techinque so tha unattended remote sites could quickly provide this data... Glad to see there is some movement on it..

Thnks
Bob, WB4APR

139. RE: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 21:02:27 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 112 Message: 139

> Do you really need 40GB to get all of your county? Perhaps your
> counties are bigger down there in CA?

3789 square miles, probably about the same as your counties up there. I think I had about 20 GB of data for the county at last check - that was mostly 1-meter B/W DOQQs though. I expect high-resolution color data from Google Earth would be larger. And yes, there are some big counties down here. San Bernardino County is larger than Switzerland.

Scott
N1VG

140. RE: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 21:04:13 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 121 Message: 140

> Thanks, but since there is already an on-air standard APRS data
> format for DF signal reports, then any such device should use
> that existing format so that existing software can plot it

Yeah, my intention is to put out a standard omni DF report. A 0-5 volt input would still be best for RSSI, but I can reformat it once I've got the reading.

Scott

141. RE: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 21:08:06 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 112 Message: 141

On Fri, 3 Nov 2006 scott@... wrote:

> 3789 square miles, probably about the same as your counties up there. I
> think I had about 20 GB of data for the county at last check - that was
> mostly 1-meter B/W DOQQs though. I expect high-resolution color data from
> Google Earth would be larger.

Ok. DOQQ's or any other aerial/satellite imagery are going to be
larger than DRG topos. Makes sense now.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

142. RE: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-03 22:43:42 UTC
From: Rich & Barb
Topic: 112 Message: 142
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

What would I need to cover our country of 22,000 sq miles???

143. Re: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-04 00:43:32 UTC
From: Matt a
Topic: 112 Message: 143

Nice prospect though interesting to sa the least.

----- Original Message ----
From: Arnold Shore <3ashore@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2006 7:08:57 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Matt, you're right, by the nature of the beast it can't work w/o such connectivity. But none of us had ip until a while ago, so time will help solve that one. (The thought is to " ... skate to where the puck's going to be.")

And, no 'solution' can fit every case. If this cd work for any team, then great; that's why we're doing it.

AS

----- Original Message -----
From: Matt a
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com
Sent: Thursday, November 02, 2006 6:30 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

arnie you mention ip, some sar's have no connectivity in the field. How would gmaps work?

----- Original Message ----
From: Arnold Shore <3ashore@Comcast. net>
To: csar@yahoogroups. com; SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com
Sent: Thursday, November 2, 2006 10:35:28 AM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Folks, I've been lurking for a bit, but seeing the number of tech-heads already here, I thought mebbe it's time to come out.

I'm not a boots-on-the- ground SAR-er, but I'm working closely with a bud in Fla who's the comm's/tech guy in a K-9 SAR bunch. We're putting together an open-source package that might be of some interest here. While he's the rf/wire/comm' s guy, I'm the code walloper; a retired - but recovering! - software developer, with experience going back 40-odd years. My current specialty is web-based applications using PHP/MySQL, free/open source, for use by public safety org's. I'm an unpaid volunteer, giving back.

Of possible interest here is that we're building an app'n that's putting a database underneath a number of ICS forms, and integrating mapping into it. (As a web app'n, it's immediately multi-user, of course, but does require the availability of internet/tcp/ ip connectivity.)

I've looked hard at the really excellent effort that's the MS Access-based one put together by the NM SAR crew (other credits are also due I'm sure, but they're the only ones I'm

aware of). Our mapping function is based on the integration of Google's maps API, so that the using agency will have that capability almost right out of the box. While GMaps shows roads and satellite/hybrid views, it doesn't (yet, anyway) provide topo, which we'll be looking at re just how best to include that.

Reactions invited (not excluding 'Get outa here!') Thanks, all.

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD
unaffiliated

144. Re: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-04 00:53:59 UTC
From: Matt a
Topic: 112 Message: 144

ok Im stumped drg? where can i find them

----- Original Message ----
From: "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2006 4:08:06 PM
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

On Fri, 3 Nov 2006 scott@opentrac. org wrote:

> 3789 square miles, probably about the same as your counties up there. I
> think I had about 20 GB of data for the county at last check - that was
> mostly 1-meter B/W DOQQs though. I expect high-resolution color data from
> Google Earth would be larger.

Ok. DOQQ's or any other aerial/satellite imagery are going to be
larger than DRG topos. Makes sense now.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo. com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. " -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

145. RE: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-04 01:11:24 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 112 Message: 145

I get my DRGs from the California Spatial Information Library at
http://gis.ca.gov/. Of course, that's just for California! But it's free
and the downloads are fast. For free or fast (but not both) downloads, try
www.gisdatadepot.com.

Scott

_____

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
Of Matt a
Sent: Friday, November 03, 2006 4:54 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

ok Im stumped drg? where can i find them

----- Original Message ----
From: "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, November 3, 2006 4:08:06 PM
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

On Fri, 3 Nov 2006 scott@opentrac. org <mailto:scott%40opentrac.org> wrote:

> 3789 square miles, probably about the same as your counties up there. I
> think I had about 20 GB of data for the county at last check - that was
> mostly 1-meter B/W DOQQs though. I expect high-resolution color data from
> Google Earth would be larger.

Ok. DOQQ's or any other aerial/satellite imagery are going to be
larger than DRG topos. Makes sense now.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo. com/~archer
<http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. " -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

146. Re: [SAR_APRS] Another Introduction

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-04 01:53:41 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 112 Message: 146

On Fri, 3 Nov 2006, Matt a wrote:

> ok Im stumped drg? where can i find them

I have a set of CD's that cover WA and part of OR. They're fine for
copying as it's public-domain data on them. Check with university
libraries in your state or with state download sites to find them
for free, else buy them from the USGS directly.

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

147. Hello from VA3YOW

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-04 15:10:38 UTC
From: Peter Devanney
Topic: 147 Message: 147

Glad to see an active list on SAR APRS.

I have been using APRS for many years airmobile, mobile and in the bush for my own experimentation and in SAR applications.

I have been active in Ground SAR and Air SAR since 1978 in various roles including groundpounder, comms coordinator, air operations coordinator, SAR Pilot and navigator. I have also been through the NASAR Search Manager and Canadian Forces/CASARA Search Coordinator courses. I was introduced to SAR shortly after receiving my amateur radio license when the local ham club entered into an MOU to provide tactical communications for the ground SAR team near Halifax Nova Scotia.The young and or fit ones (including myself at the time) got to spend many rewarding and a few tragic hours in the bush. Over the years we have been on many actuals and training exercises.

My current work is with Civil Air Search and Rescue (CASARA) in Ottawa Ontario as a SAR navigator and ground electronic searcher. I have also been working to introduce amateur radio in support of tactical communication and tracking (APRS) within the Ottawa CASARA unit.

While many of the pilots and navs have ham licenses it is still an individual crew decision whether to use the capability. Each time I fly or deploy on the ground I carry APRS and 2m/70 cm (audio integration is a good topic for another thread). We have excellent coverage throughout Southern Ontario and the Ham capability works much better than standard airband for range. We have also built and deploy portable airborne repeaters and digipeaters for the comms (Highbird) aircraft which we use from time to time when working outside the excellent Southern Ontario repeater and digipeater infrastructure areas.

On one actual ELT hunt when calling in the location of the find I had left my GPS in the truck. The comms guy at base (who had the rescue coordination center on the phone) was able to give the teams position based on the APRS beacon (which was parked outside the barn where we found the aircraft and offending ELT). CASARA is currently exploring some of the available satellite tracking technologies .

My current project is to integrate a TinyTrack or Opentracker with a GPS engine and Transceiver in as small a package as possible including a battery. It needs to be drop dead simple to deploy and use and to reduce the number of wires in the cockpit. I have both a TT2 and D7A and have become reasonably proficient deploying these but an integrated package that could be velcroed to the glareshield or placed in the baggage area with a remote antenna(s) would reduce workload and cockpit mess.

I am also experimenting with a tablet PC in the air. It runs several mapping programs and a search management package written by one of the teams members. It makes it very quick to create and fly ELT box. expanding square, sector and creeping line ahead patterns plus a few other utilities. It would be useful to have a companion software package with large status buttons(message configurable such as engine start, wheels up, on task off task, return to base...) that you could tap at various phases of flight and have the message sent to base via APRS messaging (using AGWPE and UI View or a dedicated messaging utility).This

would reduce the need for voice tactical traffic, especially when working in busy terminal areas where the ATC radio traffic is almost constant.

Looking forward to the discussions on a list with so many others with similar background and interests. Perhaps the moderators would also allow the discussions to include SAR tactical communications as the two subjects are closely tied? Just a thought.

73

Peter
VA3YOW/VE1JI
CYOW
Ottawa Canada

148. Micro-Trak 300 on European Frequency-SAR use too?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-05 19:27:57 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 148 Message: 148

What the heck, I guess a guy has to live dangerously: I am ordering a small run of Micro-Trak transmitters on the EU frequency of 144.800. I will advise when they are in and good to go. (it may take a while) I would like to be able to justify the purchase by comitting to my supplier on a larger quantity. Is there any interest in using this as a super-secret SAR only frequency in North America? Will the repeater people loose their minds with this teeney little portable QRP application? Inquiring minds want to know...

Allen Lord
VHS Products
In cooperation with Byonics

149. RE: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak 300 on European Frequency-SAR use too?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-05 20:28:43 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 148 Message: 149

> supplier on a larger quantity. Is there any interest in using
> this as a super-secret SAR only frequency in North America?
> Will the repeater people loose their minds with this teeney
> little portable QRP application? Inquiring minds want to
know...

Would probably upset quite a few. 144.800 will QRM the inputs
to USA repeaters on 145.390 and 145.410. If it was the outputs,
then that is a different kettle of fish... But being inputs, it
has the potential to be heard on the rpeaters.

150. Re: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak 300 on European Frequency-SAR use too?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-05 21:45:33 UTC
From: Jeff Moore
Topic: 148 Message: 150

This is why you need frequency agility or programmability for tracking devices like this -- so that you can get on a frequency that won't burden the normal APRS network or cause interference problems with other users. The frequencies used don't necessarily have to be "secret", they just have to be unused and accessible (in the case of Ham freqs) or licensed properly (in the case of commercial freqs).

Jeff Moore -- KE7ACY
Bend, Oregon

----- Original Message -----
From: Robert Bruninga

> supplier on a larger quantity. Is there any interest in using
> this as a super-secret SAR only frequency in North America?
> Will the repeater people loose their minds with this teeney
> little portable QRP application? Inquiring minds want to
know...

Would probably upset quite a few. 144.800 will QRM the inputs to USA repeaters on 145.390 and 145.410. If it was the outputs, then that is a different kettle of fish... But being inputs, it has the potential to be heard on the rpeaters.

151. Re: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak 300 on European Frequency-SAR use too?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-05 22:44:04 UTC
From: Arnold Shore
Topic: 148 Message: 151

On the off-chance this might apply in part, see
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Software_radio

AS
----- Original Message -----
From: Jeff Moore
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2006 4:45 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak 300 on European Frequency-SAR use too?

This is why you need frequency agility or programmability for tracking
devices like this -- so that you can get on a frequency that won't burden
the normal APRS network or cause interference problems with other users.
The frequencies used don't necessarily have to be "secret", they just have
to be unused and accessible (in the case of Ham freqs) or licensed properly
(in the case of commercial freqs).

Jeff Moore -- KE7ACY
Bend, Oregon

----- Original Message -----
From: Robert Bruninga

> supplier on a larger quantity. Is there any interest in using
> this as a super-secret SAR only frequency in North America?
> Will the repeater people loose their minds with this teeney
> little portable QRP application? Inquiring minds want to
know...

Would probably upset quite a few. 144.800 will QRM the inputs
to USA repeaters on 145.390 and 145.410. If it was the outputs,
then that is a different kettle of fish... But being inputs, it
has the potential to be heard on the rpeaters.

152. Re: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak 300 on European Frequency-SAR use too?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-06 00:12:03 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 148 Message: 152

I am pretty far away from having a software controlled, frequency agile version. My transmitter currently uses a crystal.

I found a very nice way to make a small 200+ milliwatt APRS transmitter (just a little bigger that the Micro-Trak) that would have 8 switch selectable channels that you can program in on your computer. (Within a few MHz of each other) The problem is that it would have to retail for at least 200.00 dollars. That is starting to make a Kenwood handheld look pretty palatable. Of course, I am still talking about a pocket-sized package using the SERPAC 9 volt battery "transistor radio" sized box. My feedback from the groups seems to be that they want more features for less money, and I have not been able to meet that design criterion... If I am wrong, and people would buy such a thing, let me know! It would use a TinyTrak 3 as a controller, and include windows programming software.

73
Allen
VHS
KG6HXO

153. RE: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak 300 on European Frequency-SAR use too?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-06 00:20:41 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 148 Message: 153

A 9-volt battery doesn't give you much juice to power a GPS receiver though...

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of CaptALord@...
Sent: Sunday, November 05, 2006 4:12 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak 300 on European Frequency-SAR use too?

I am pretty far away from having a software controlled, frequency agile version. My transmitter currently uses a crystal.

I found a very nice way to make a small 200+ milliwatt APRS transmitter (just a little bigger that the Micro-Trak) that would have 8 switch selectable channels that you can program in on your computer. (Within a few MHz of each other) The problem is that it would have to retail for at least 200.00 dollars. That is starting to make a Kenwood handheld look pretty palatable. Of course, I am still talking about a pocket-sized package using the SERPAC 9 volt battery "transistor radio" sized box. My feedback from the groups seems to be that they want more features for less money, and I have not been able to meet that design criterion... If I am wrong, and people would buy such a thing, let me know! It would use a TinyTrak 3 as a controller, and include windows programming software.

73
Allen
VHS
KG6HXO

154. SAR Comms list

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-06 05:03:20 UTC
From: Sean Smith
Topic: 154 Message: 154

A few days ago some one mentioned that there should be a list for SAR Comms well there all ready is one that I've been on for a while now. It's been slow lately.

http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/sarcomm/?yguid=74240794

Sean

155. Re: 9volt battery

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-06 14:09:09 UTC
From: bruce_smith@ncci.com
Topic: 148 Message: 155

Good Morning,

For my airborne tracker, I found that the 9.6v rechargeable batteries for RC Cars works extremely well. Last almost a full day of sorties, I changed out the plugs to the Anderson Power Plugs to be capable with other supplies. I also use this battery for our ELT Trainers. Found at most Radio Shacks and a decent price.

Bruce
FLCAP 600
KD4GWL

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156. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello from VA3YOW

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-06 15:19:03 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 147 Message: 156

On Sat, 4 Nov 2006, Peter Devanney wrote:

> I am also experimenting with a tablet PC in the air. It runs
> several mapping programs and a search management package written
> by one of the teams members. It makes it very quick to create and
> fly ELT box. expanding square, sector and creeping line ahead
> patterns plus a few other utilities. It would be useful to have a
> companion software package with large status buttons(message
> configurable such as engine start, wheels up, on task off task,
> return to base...) that you could tap at various phases of flight
> and have the message sent to base via APRS messaging (using AGWPE
> and UI View or a dedicated messaging utility).This would reduce
> the need for voice tactical traffic, especially when working in
> busy terminal areas where the ATC radio traffic is almost
> constant.

You didn't mention what type of OS you're running on that tablet PC,
but in any case it wouldn't be THAT difficult to write a graphical
application to do what you're asking. I'm not the right one to do
it (too busy with my own too-many projects), but I've done things
like that in the past, touch-screen and all. If you're running APRS
software on there already, you'd probably just need to connect up to
the TCP server port of that software, inject a packet at regular
intervals until you get an ACK, then disconnect.

> Looking forward to the discussions on a list with so many others
> with similar background and interests. Perhaps the moderators
> would also allow the discussions to include SAR tactical
> communications as the two subjects are closely tied? Just a
> thought.

I'm not one of the list admins, but just my opinion would be that
perhaps the SARCOMM group would be better for that sort of
discussion, or one of the many other excellent SAR lists. I'd
rather keep this list oriented towards discussions of APRS/
OpenTrac/ AVL for emergency deployment. Again, just one man's
opinion.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

157. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello from VA3YOW

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-06 16:47:36 UTC
From: Arnold Shore
Topic: 147 Message: 157

Hello, there and welcome.

Yr reference to the home-grown search mgmt package caught my interest, since I'm in the middle of writing something like that as a free/open source package. (ICS forms, maps, MySQL database, etc.) I wonder if you cd share yours in some manner? Small enough to send as an email attachment to addr below? Thanks.

Arnold Shore
Annapolis, MD
3ashore@...
unaffiliated

.

158. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello from VA3YOW

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-06 17:19:11 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 147 Message: 158

On Mon, 6 Nov 2006, Arnold Shore wrote:

> Yr reference to the home-grown search mgmt package caught my
> interest, since I'm in the middle of writing something like that
> as a free/open source package. (ICS forms, maps, MySQL database,
> etc.) I wonder if you cd share yours in some manner? Small
> enough to send as an email attachment to addr below? Thanks.

Is it "e-gads" that the original poster was referring to?

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
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"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

159. k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-06 22:39:15 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 159 Message: 159

I was asked a question about APRS and tracking Search
Dogs last weekend, and I was wondering if anyone is
doing it succesfully?

I'm wondering how to fit a GPS, Surface Mount OT2, a
transmitter with maybe 1-2 watts, lithium ion
batteries could all fit onto a Search Dogs Jacket.

Regards
John

Send instant messages to your online friends http://uk.messenger.yahoo.com

160. RE: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-07 12:05:53 UTC
From: Amir's email
Topic: 159 Message: 160

I?m a K9 handler and have put a GPS on my dog, a Foretrex 201. It is small enough to remain in a little pouch on top of the vest. The Foretrex 201 is waterproof, at least enough for an occasional dunk in the water, should me dog (Labrador retriever) go for a swim. Now I have not yet seen the hardware I?d want to APRS the dog, not small and light weight enough, with little but secure cables and waterproof... Also, I?d really want to watch my dog?s progress in real time on a handheld GPS and that would mean the beacon ought to be set at a high frequency as 2 minutes, the setting I use now for vehicular purposes, is way too often for walking purposes but for my K9 I?d probably want 15-30 seconds at least. Think what that would do to others trying to use APRS on that frequency! Even if a dog frequency would be allocated, there might be more than one dog operating?

So I?m really not sure APRS on a dog is the way to go, for the time being. Frankly, even just with the GPS on the dog, I have not found it giving me information I really need to have.

But I?m open to ideas. I tried something like that with a Rino 120 but the radio component of that unit is about as good as two tin cans without the string.

73 de K9CHP, Amir Findling, member ARRL, AMSAT #36083
1st Special Response Group (1SRG) http://www.1srg.org/
Apprentice Tracker, Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services
http://www.jhardin-inc.com/index.htm

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of Jon
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 5:39 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

I was asked a question about APRS and tracking Search
Dogs last weekend, and I was wondering if anyone is
doing it succesfully?

I'm wondering how to fit a GPS, Surface Mount OT2, a
transmitter with maybe 1-2 watts, lithium ion
batteries could all fit onto a Search Dogs Jacket.

Regards
John

Send instant messages to your online friends http://uk.messenger.yahoo.com
<http://uk.messenger.yahoo.com>

161. Re: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-07 15:46:25 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 159 Message: 161

On Mon, 6 Nov 2006, Jon wrote:

> I was asked a question about APRS and tracking Search
> Dogs last weekend, and I was wondering if anyone is
> doing it succesfully?
>
> I'm wondering how to fit a GPS, Surface Mount OT2, a
> transmitter with maybe 1-2 watts, lithium ion
> batteries could all fit onto a Search Dogs Jacket.

There are surface mount Tinytrak's in production. You can't get a S/M Opentracker-1 or OT2, but they _do_ exist as prototypes.

Here's what I would suggest: A GPS of some type attached to the 300mW tracker that was just announced on the Tinytrak list, plus a battery. With this you won't have great range, but it'll be very small and very light. For the GPS you could perhaps use a serial interface Deluo, which are also small/light. I don't think the Deluo is waterproof, but neither is the microtrack, so you'll have to put them in a watertight case of some type.

Microtrak:
<http://www.byonics.com/microtrak300/>

Deluo:
<https://www.argentdata.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=23>

For the battery you'll probably need at least an AA pack. A 9V battery won't work for long powering a GPS.

Anyway, you put a transmit-only tracker like this on the dog, then if you want the dog to be seen on a wider scale you digipeat via the handler's APRS system out to base or the ROW. You can't use a Kenwood TH-D7A for this 'cuz they don't digipeat. You could use an OpenTracker2 and a handheld though. Attach a GPS and you'll see where the dog is on your GPS screen plus see where other teams are, and base will see where both the handler AND the dog are roaming.

I would think that 300mW would get from a SAR dog to the handler, as they are usually not THAT far apart, but perhaps somebody here will correct me if I'm way off base. I'm not involved in K9.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

162. Re: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-07 15:59:46 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 159 Message: 162

On Tue, 7 Nov 2006, Curt, WE7U wrote:

> Here's what I would suggest: A GPS of some type attached to the
> 300mW tracker that was just announced on the Tinytrak list, plus a
> battery. With this you won't have great range, but it'll be very
> small and very light. For the GPS you could perhaps use a serial
> interface Deluo, which are also small/light. I don't think the
> Deluo is waterproof, but neither is the microtrack, so you'll have
> to put them in a watertight case of some type.
>
> Microtrak:
> <http://www.byonics.com/microtrak300/>
>
> Deluo:
> <https://www.argentdata.com/catalog/index.php?cPath=23>
>
> For the battery you'll probably need at least an AA pack. A 9V
> battery won't work for long powering a GPS.

Hmmm. On the same page I see a Garmin GPS-18 which is waterproof
for $20 more, so that would probably be a better option for a K9.

Another thing I forgot about is that these GPS'es want 5V, so either
you must tailor your battery pack to that or else add a 5V regulator
somewhere for powering the GPS. These are easy to construct, but
one more hassle you'll have to take care of.

Garmin GPS-18LVC requires 4V - 5.5V DC.
Deluo requires 5V DC +/- 5%, which is a tighter spec.

It's possible with some trackers that have the TO-220 style voltage
regulator to pull 5V from there for powering a GPS. It depends on
what extra capacity the tracker regulator has, but it might also
require a heatsink to be able to do this.

The good news: The Microtrak manual states that they've allowed for
an optional 5V output from the regulator to power an external GPS,
and the Microtrak runs from 9V-15V DC. Slap a 10-15V battery pack
on it, wire the GPS directly to it, and you've got a transmit-only
system, at about 1/3 of a watt. You'll still need to waterproof the
Microtrak and your battery pack, plus any cable connections. Put it
all in one case and there won't be any outside cable connections to
pull loose or leak water. Check the current required by the GPS to
make sure the Microtrak can supply it.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer

"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

163. RE: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-07 16:34:28 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 159 Message: 163

> Hmmm. On the same page I see a Garmin GPS-18 which is waterproof
> for $20 more, so that would probably be a better option for a K9.

The Deluo is ostensibly waterproof as well. I've taken a few apart and I can say that they're sealed with a bead of silicone and the cable strain relief has an O-ring on it. I wouldn't try immersing it, but it should handle rain.

> Another thing I forgot about is that these GPS'es want 5V, so either
> you must tailor your battery pack to that or else add a 5V regulator
> somewhere for powering the GPS. These are easy to construct, but

The 78M05 is a good compact (and cheap) regulator.

I've got a Microtrak prototype here that I still haven't had a chance to test out. Mine actually has no TT3 board on it, so I'll probably just slap an SMT OpenTracker on it. I'm bidding on a comm analyzer today on eBay, and if I happen to win it, I'll do some testing on the transmitter and share my results. I was thinking about using the same module myself, but the importer's exclusive deal with Byonics might not make it viable, and I think I'll have a better option soon anyway.

Scott

164. Re: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-07 16:28:29 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 159 Message: 164

On Tue, 7 Nov 2006, Curt, WE7U wrote:

> Hmmm. On the same page I see a Garmin GPS-18 which is waterproof
> for $20 more, so that would probably be a better option for a K9.

Except that it appears the Garmin needs 60mA of current at 5V, while the Deluo needs about 24mA (120mW divided by 5V).

The Microtrak requires 180mA on transmit (which lasts about a second each time), 15mA normally.

So with the Deluo the system current drain would be 39mA continuous, 204mA during transmit.

With the Garmin it'd be 75mA continuous, 240mA during transmit.

Batteries will last longer with the Deluo in the system, but again the waterproofness isn't there with the Deluos. I don't know which GPS would be more sensitive in the woods which is another big factor.

I still stick by the "don't use 9V batteries" statement due to the current required by the GPS. You wouldn't be able to get enough hours out of one alkaline battery for a 6-8 hour operational period.

If it were me I'd probably go with RC rechargeable power packs or else an AA battery holder (or two in order to distribute weight evenly on the dog) so I could put what I wanted in it. Shoot for a 12V battery perhaps.

I think it's over-engineered sufficiently now, Anyone going to try it?

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

165. RE: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-07 17:07:29 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 159 Message: 165

> Except that it appears the Garmin needs 60mA of current at 5V, while
> the Deluo needs about 24mA (120mW divided by 5V).

Yeah, but I don't believe that. My measurements are more like 60mA for the Deluo, too. I really need to get an integrating wattmeter, though.

> If it were me I'd probably go with RC rechargeable power packs or
> else an AA battery holder (or two in order to distribute weight
> evenly on the dog) so I could put what I wanted in it. Shoot for a
> 12V battery perhaps.

Lithium AAs or some CR123As would be very light with good energy density.

Scott

166. Re: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-07 22:00:54 UTC
From: Jeff Moore
Topic: 159 Message: 166

You guys should really take a serious look at the Beeline GPS setup. Frequency programmable on 70 cm, power level is progammable, and a variety of other options are also programmable. It's about as rugged as it can get, anything that will hurt the unit will severely damage your dog as well. It includes a rechargable Li-Ion battery pack, the GPS is included, as well as the transmitter (admittedly low power).

It's good for 20 miles line-of-sight. With a dog you will probably loose the signal occassionally depending on the terrain, but as the dog moves around, you'll get the signal back.

We use these units for tracking rockets (after they've landed) and laying on the ground we often get the signal 2 or 3 miles away. In addition, if you can hear the signal (whether you get any GPS position info or not) or can track the signal using a small beam antenna.

Train your dog to lay down with the lost/injured person and you should be able to walk right to them.

Jeff Moore
KE7ACY
Bend, Oregon

P.S. the link is included on the group website.
----- Original Message -----
From: Amir's email

I'm a K9 handler and have put a GPS on my dog, a Foretrex 201. It is small enough to remain in a little pouch on top of the vest. The Foretrex 201 is waterproof, at least enough for an occasional dunk in the water, should me dog (Labrador retriever) go for a swim. Now I have not yet seen the hardware I'd want to APRS the dog, not small and light weight enough, with little but secure cables and waterproof... Also, I'd really want to watch my dog's progress in real time on a handheld GPS and that would mean the beacon ought to be set at a high frequency as 2 minutes, the setting I use now for vehicular purposes, is way too often for walking purposes but for my K9 I'd probably want 15-30 seconds at least. Think what that would do to others trying to use APRS on that frequency! Even if a dog frequency would be allocated, there might be more than one dog operating.

So I'm really not sure APRS on a dog is the way to go, for the time being. Frankly, even just with the GPS on the dog, I have not found it giving me information I really need to have.

But I'm open to ideas. I tried something like that with a Rino 120 but the radio component of that unit is about as good as two tin cans without the string.

73 de K9CHP, Amir Findling, member ARRL, AMSAT #36083

1st Special Response Group (1SRG) http://www.1srg.org/

Apprentice Tracker, Joel Hardin Professional Tracking Services
http://www.jhardin-inc.com/index.htm

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of Jon
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 5:39 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

I was asked a question about APRS and tracking Search
Dogs last weekend, and I was wondering if anyone is
doing it succesfully?

I'm wondering how to fit a GPS, Surface Mount OT2, a
transmitter with maybe 1-2 watts, lithium ion
batteries could all fit onto a Search Dogs Jacket.

Regards
John

.

167. test msg

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-07 22:16:00 UTC
From: Jeff Moore
Topic: 167 Message: 167

This is a test message

please delete

it appears that my replies are not getting through

thx

KE7ACY

168. Re: Hello from VA3YOW

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-08 00:31:43 UTC
From: Christopher Hodgdon
Topic: 147 Message: 168

I would be intrested in this mgmt package also. Trying to meld
several organizations togetehr, SAR, CERT, ARES and others.....

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...> wrote:
>
> On Mon, 6 Nov 2006, Arnold Shore wrote:
>
> > Yr reference to the home-grown search mgmt package caught my
> > interest, since I'm in the middle of writing something like that
> > as a free/open source package. (ICS forms, maps, MySQL database,
> > etc.) I wonder if you cd share yours in some manner? Small
> > enough to send as an email attachment to addr below? Thanks.
>
> Is it "e-gads" that the original poster was referring to?
>
> --
> Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
> "Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
> "Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
> "The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
>

169. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello from VA3YOW

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-08 00:50:25 UTC
From: Peter Devanney
Topic: 147 Message: 169

Running WinXP tablet edition.

There is an APRS messaging IM client (works over the air and standalone using a telnet connection I believe). Haven't tried it yet but was thinking about something along that line with a front end that used pre-programmed F-keys or buttons.

73
Peter
VA3YOW-9 (car) -7(airplane)

----- Original Message -----
From: Curt, WE7U
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 10:19 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello from VA3YOW

On Sat, 4 Nov 2006, Peter Devanney wrote:

> I am also experimenting with a tablet PC in the air. It runs
> several mapping programs and a search management package written
> by one of the teams members. It makes it very quick to create and
> fly ELT box. expanding square, sector and creeping line ahead
> patterns plus a few other utilities. It would be useful to have a
> companion software package with large status buttons(message
> configurable such as engine start, wheels up, on task off task,
> return to base...) that you could tap at various phases of flight
> and have the message sent to base via APRS messaging (using AGWPE
> and UI View or a dedicated messaging utility).This would reduce
> the need for voice tactical traffic, especially when working in
> busy terminal areas where the ATC radio traffic is almost
> constant.

You didn't mention what type of OS you're running on that tablet PC, but in any case it wouldn't be THAT difficult to write a graphical application to do what you're asking. I'm not the right one to do it (too busy with my own too-many projects), but I've done things like that in the past, touch-screen and all. If you're running APRS software on there already, you'd probably just need to connect up to the TCP server port of that software, inject a packet at regular intervals until you get an ACK, then disconnect.

> Looking forward to the discussions on a list with so many others
> with similar background and interests. Perhaps the moderators
> would also allow the discussions to include SAR tactical
> communications as the two subjects are closely tied? Just a
> thought.

I'm not one of the list admins, but just my opinion would be that perhaps the SARCOMM group would be better for that sort of discussion, or one of the many other excellent SAR lists. I'd rather keep this list oriented towards discussions of APRS/ OpenTrac/ AVL for emergency deployment. Again, just one man's opinion.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
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"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

170. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello from VA3YOW

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-08 01:12:23 UTC
From: Peter Devanney
Topic: 147 Message: 170

Not a SAR management package from an overhead perspective.

The package is used to create the search patterns we fly (CLA's, ExSq, Sector plus one specific to Canadian Air SAR called the Canadian Search Area Definition or CSAD). It uses the Ozi API for display and GPS functions. The patterns are plotted in Oziexplorer for verification and printing if desired from Ozi and loaded into your GPS of choice. I run Ozi directly on the laptop and can either fly the lines on the moving map or load the route to my GPS (or both).

The real value is the ability to quickly build the pattern without a lot of paper chart plotting (read time consuming) and to change on the go- especially useful when hunting an ELT from the air. Once we localize the ELT but cannot visually locate the target we can quickly set up a visual (sector or Expanding square) search for the spotters (scanners).

The software and registration info (free) can be found at http://www.casaraontario.ca/~webmaster1/Tools/ and is most likely of greatest interest to CAP and CASARA members. It is written by Bill VA3SHQ who offers excellent support on the SHQ Yahoo group.

To keep this on topic :), when I am flying we are usually also running APRS. At the moment its either a TT2/HT combo or D7A but would like to move to a small standalone tracker box with everything, including battery inside.I am working to integrate the various pieces to reduce cockpit clutter.

73

Peter
VA3YOW

----- Original Message -----
From: Arnold Shore
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 11:47 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello from VA3YOW

Recent Activity
a.. 182New Members
b.. 2New Photos
c.. 7New Links
Visit Your Group
SPONSORED LINKS
a.. Solano county
Hello, there and welcome.

Yr reference to the home-grown search mgmt package caught my interest, since I'm in the middle of writing something like that as a free/open source package. (ICS forms, maps, MySQL database, etc.) I wonder if you cd share yours in some manner? Small enough to send

as an email attachment to addr below? Thanks.

Arnold Shore
Annapolis, MD
3ashore@comcast.net
unaffiliated

171. RE: [SAR_APRS] Hello from VA3YOW

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-08 17:53:57 UTC
From: Ives, Kevin N.
Topic: 147 Message: 171

Curt,

I agree with you that this is a interesting discussion and also that we need to stay consistent with the intent of this group. Lets finish up this thread on the mgt software.

Kevin Ives, SAR_APRS Moderator
N6QGV
Solano Co. Office of Emergency Services
SAR Tech II, Tracker 1, ACS/RACES liaison

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Curt, WE7U
Sent: Monday, November 06, 2006 7:19 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello from VA3YOW

On Sat, 4 Nov 2006, Peter Devanney wrote:

> I am also experimenting with a tablet PC in the air. It runs
> several mapping programs and a search management package written
> by one of the teams members. It makes it very quick to create and
> fly ELT box. expanding square, sector and creeping line ahead
> patterns plus a few other utilities. It would be useful to have a
> companion software package with large status buttons(message
> configurable such as engine start, wheels up, on task off task,
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> and UI View or a dedicated messaging utility).This would reduce
> the need for voice tactical traffic, especially when working in
> busy terminal areas where the ATC radio traffic is almost
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--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
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"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

172. Re: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-08 16:55:16 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 159 Message: 172

On Tue, 7 Nov 2006, Jeff Moore wrote:

> You guys should really take a serious look at the Beeline GPS
> setup. Frequency programmable on 70 cm, power level is
> progammable, and a variety of other options are also programmable.
> It's about as rugged as it can get, anything that will hurt the
> unit will severely damage your dog as well. It includes a
> rechargable Li-Ion battery pack, the GPS is included, as well as
> the transmitter (admittedly low power).
>
> It's good for 20 miles line-of-sight. With a dog you will
> probably loose the signal occassionally depending on the terrain,
> but as the dog moves around, you'll get the signal back.

Be _real_ careful stating things like "20 miles". You're talking rocket or balloon radio paths there, not radio paths going along the surface of the planet. I noticed that his website and user's manual don't state the power output of the transmitter. Knowing that (and you may have mentioned it before) one can do some rough calculations using Splat! or RadioMobile to see what kind of distances one might expect. _Very_ rough calculations. You'll never know for sure until you try it under your conditions and in your terrain.

Even if you have line-of-sight between two points on the earth you're going to have more attenuation and problems with multipath propagation between those two points that you would have going up into the sky.

There's a special case where an endpoint is way up on a mountain and you basically have empty space all around the signal path. In that case it might closely simulate rocket or balloon paths and you can get some serious distance. That's why sometimes FRS can communicate over great distances, when otherwise they're crappy radios for the woods. They're up in the 440 range as well and low-power.

I see that you're in Bend. That's much dryer than where I am (north of Seattle, wet side of the mountains). On the wet side of the mountains, wet foliage takes an extreme toll on radio signals. Also, 440MHz signals are going to be attenuated more by foliage than 2-meter or lower frequency signals. There's also the pine-needle length issue on some bands, is that 1.2GHz or 2.4GHz? Can't remember. I don't think it's a factor on 2m or 440 though.

Back to the K9 thing: I was suggesting that a 2-meter low-power APRS transmitter on the dog could be digipeated by the K9 handler's

rig. For this scheme a 70cm or a 2 meter tracker could be used. If using the Beeline tracker on a K9, the handler's APRS rig would have to be on 70cm as well or would have to cross-band digipeat to 2 meters (a more complicated setup). That's for this digipeating-through-the-handler scheme. I personally wouldn't try to use a 300mW transmitter to go directly to search base, but digipeating it off the handler should work fine.

5W to 7W output power would be in line for a field-team tracker intended to be heard back at search base directly, similar to the power output of what most SAR people use for SAR voice comms.

I already mentioned what I thought about 440MHz trackers in the woods, at least for my area, although for the distance between a dog and a handler it'd be fine. In your area, 440 might work better due to the lower humidity and sparser foliage, so if you're successfully using the Beeline trackers for ground SAR there, that might be why it's working for you. If so, how far are you _reliably_ getting with them on the ground?

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

173. Re: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-08 18:48:16 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 159 Message: 173

I strongly recommend using VHF for your puppy tracking application. Path losses at 70 cm are about six times higher than 2 meters, and terrestrial performance with flea power devices like the GPS bee is weak. For comparison, if you have used the Garmin Rhino Units on FRS at 1/2 watt, you know that you are lucky to get a half mile line of sight. People have tried using the Rhinos to track dogs without much success. I am not necessarily suggesting my Micro-Trak unit as an alternative. I would want at least half a watt for open air work. I suppose with adequate digipeater coverage, 300 mW might be enough...

A number of years ago, I converted an anti-bark collar (the kind that spits citronella spray on your dog's face) to be used as an attack dog wireless notification system. If your dog alerts by barking (I am thinking too much about drugs and bombs, probably) it could send a configuration change through the controller (TinyTrak, OpenTrak, etc)

How about a five watt ATV "dog-cam" transmitter with a video GPS graphic overlay? How much weight can we task a SAR dog with?

Allen
KG6HXO
VHS Products

174. RE: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-08 19:14:35 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 159 Message: 174

Figure out a way to stabilize and steer a laser pointer along side the ATV camera, and you've got a remote control dog!

I'll second the VHF recommendation. I'm lucky to be able to talk to my kids on FRS when they're a few blocks away at the park. 2 meters seems to work a lot better. And yeah, you can get 20 miles out of a tiny transmitter when it's up in the air, but I'd be surprised if you get 1/4 mile with it in the woods.

Scott

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of CaptALord@...
Sent: Wednesday, November 08, 2006 10:48 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

I strongly recommend using VHF for your puppy tracking application. Path losses at 70 cm are about six times higher than 2 meters, and terrestrial performance with flea power devices like the GPS bee is weak. For comparison, if you have used the Garmin Rhino Units on FRS at 1/2 watt, you know that you are lucky to get a half mile line of sight. People have tried using the Rhinos to track dogs without much success. I am not necessarily suggesting my Micro-Trak unit as an alternative. I would want at least half a watt for open air work. I suppose with adequate digipeater coverage, 300 mW might be enough...

A number of years ago, I converted an anti-bark collar (the kind that spits citronella spray on your dog's face) to be used as an attack dog wireless notification system. If your dog alerts by barking (I am thinking too much about drugs and bombs, probably) it could send a configuration change through the controller (TinyTrak, OpenTrak, etc)

How about a five watt ATV "dog-cam" transmitter with a video GPS graphic overlay? How much weight can we task a SAR dog with?

Allen
KG6HXO
VHS Products

175. BeeLine GPS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-08 19:13:47 UTC
From: k7rkt
Topic: 175 Message: 175

Hello eveyone,

I see there have been some comments regarding my product, the BeeLine GPS. First off, more information is available here:

http://www.bigredbee.com

A few comments.....

The BeeLine GPS, and the BeeLine tranmitter, are very low power devices designed for line of site, in the air tracking of rockets, balloons, and rc aircraft. Small size, low weight and long battery life were the primary goals. We've sucessfully received and decoded packets 20 miles line of site (peak to peak), and copied the FM modulated CW tones over 180miles (from a balloon at 80K AGL).

Range on the ground is orders of magnitude less, and to be honest, no extensive testing has been done. As Curt, WE7U, mentions, lots of things including terrain and vegetation can play a significant role in effective range on the ground.

Power output is +12dBm, or about 16 mw. I'm looking into designing an amplifier circuit to pump this up to around 2-300mw, at the expense of battery life.

I've also got a 2 meter prototype working here on the bench, and plan on productizing that if there is sufficient interest.

Regards,

-- Greg, TRA 7960, K7RKT, BigRedBee LLC

176. Re: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-08 19:35:56 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 159 Message: 176

On Wed, 8 Nov 2006 CaptALord@... wrote:

> For comparison, if
> you have used the Garmin Rhino Units on FRS at 1/2 watt, you know that you are
> lucky to get a half mile line of sight. People have tried using the Rhinos to
> track dogs without much success.

Note that you can get a GMRS license ($80 for five years), and use
the Garmin GMRS RINO units now with their full GMRS power in order
to do positioning. Evidently Garmin got another FCC waiver that
allows this. Prior to this you could only use the positioning stuff
at the FRS power levels, but could do the GMRS voice at the higher
power output. A flash update of your older units will allow the new
power levels for positioning.

For those of you who are Xastir users, you can hook a RINO directly
to Xastir, poll other RINO units, and plot them on the map. If you
have an attached APRS setup as well, Xastir will create & transmit
APRS objects for each one of the RINO's as well. I kind'a thought
of this as a toy capability until I heard about that new FCC waiver.
Now it might even be useful.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

177. Re: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-08 19:49:35 UTC
From: Steve Friis
Topic: 159 Message: 177

scott@... wrote:
> Figure out a way to stabilize and steer a laser pointer along side the
> ATV camera, and you've got a remote control dog!
>
> I'll second the VHF recommendation. I'm lucky to be able to talk to
> my kids on FRS when they're a few blocks away at the park. 2 meters
> seems to work a lot better. And yeah, you can get 20 miles out of a
> tiny transmitter when it's up in the air, but I'd be surprised if you
> get 1/4 mile with it in the woods.
>
> Scott
Try being in the lava beds here in NM. What the rocks don't reflect causing multi-path, they absorb. If I were designing a system for either dogs, horseback riders or ATV units, 5 watts would be with what I would be going with. I would want these units to show up on the system, and not be lost somewhere.

Steve/WM5Z

Z

178. Re: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-09 19:42:57 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 121 Message: 178

On Fri, 3 Nov 2006, Arnold Shore wrote:

> Folks, I don't recall seeing any reference to it here, but there's
> some basic APRS information on the wikipedia at
>
> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Automatic_Position_Reporting_System

Thanks for posting that!

I've been thinking a bit about what sort of tutorial would work for
this group. The truth is, I really don't know! Subscribers
probably range between:

not-a-ham-yet to
brand-new-ham to
only-a-ham-for-SAR-purposes to
experienced ham to
experienced ham + experienced in APRS.

Same for SAR, probably ranging from:

not-a-SAR-person-yet to
beginning in SAR to
typical SAR-member to
SAR-member their whole lives + all kinds of certifications.

The first thing I'll do is point people to <http://info.aprs.net>
and suggest reading "History" and "APRS Uses". Some of that
probably duplicates the Wikipedia page listed above, but what the
hey. Follow the links as your interest takes you to learn more
about any particular subject. It's a Wiki so please feel free to
add to the pool of knowledge there.

After that, there's the PowerPoint presentation "Radio Tracking your
SAR Teams" at:

<http://wetnet.net/~we7u>

to look at which explains APRS from a SAR perspective, plus the
"GETTING_STARTED_WITH_APRS" brochure.

A very real writeup on what you might expect during your first few
tries at APRS in the woods is at the "APRS at Snohomish County
Washington Mock Search 2000" wetnet.net link above.

"APRS Uses for Public/Emergency Services and SAR" may be of interest
as well, but it hasn't been updated in a while, also at the
wetnet.net link above.

I find this OpenOffice Impress presentation quite good:

<http://data.acnatsci.org/temp/aprs_for_gpsar_plug_1.odp>

Try the below pages as well, skipping any bits that are too
technical in order to get a quick overview of the subject:

<http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/xastir/SAR.html>
<http://wiki.ampr2.net/nwaprs/SearchAndRescue>

Anyone having good introductory material or who can help to
refine/re-order the text above, let's hear from you!

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

179. Micro-Trak/TinyTrak 3 configuration

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-11 18:52:09 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 179 Message: 179

Gentlemen,

Just a quick note for Micro-Trak 300 / Tiny Trak 3 users. Please do not check the "only send valid " box in the Byonics configuartion software. This will cause the unit to transmit a continuous carrier in the event of an unlocked GPS.

73
Allen Lord
VHS Products
KG6HXO

180. Re: [SAR_APRS] k9 tracking

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-12 11:43:05 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 159 Message: 180

Hi,

Seeing as I started this thread by asking a question
many thanks for the replies. Lots to think about
there.

Regards
de John
EI7IG

--- CaptALord@... wrote:

> I strongly recommend using VHF for your puppy
> tracking application. Path
> losses at 70 cm are about six times higher than 2
> meters, and terrestrial
> performance with flea power devices like the GPS bee
> is weak. For comparison, if
> you have used the Garmin Rhino Units on FRS at 1/2
> watt, you know that you are
> lucky to get a half mile line of sight. People have
> tried using the Rhinos to
> track dogs without much success. I am not
> necessarily suggesting my
> Micro-Trak unit as an alternative. I would want at
> least half a watt for open air
> work. I suppose with adequate digipeater coverage,
> 300 mW might be enough...
>
> A number of years ago, I converted an anti-bark
> collar (the kind that spits
> citronella spray on your dog's face) to be used as
> an attack dog wireless
> notification system. If your dog alerts by barking (
> I am thinking too much
> about drugs and bombs, probably) it could send a
> configuration change through
> the controller (TinyTrak, OpenTrak, etc)
>
> How about a five watt ATV "dog-cam" transmitter with
> a video GPS graphic
> overlay? How much weight can we task a SAR dog with?
>
> Allen
> KG6HXO
> VHS Products

>

Send instant messages to your online friends http://uk.messenger.yahoo.com

181. Re: BeeLine GPS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-14 07:20:42 UTC
From: hr_sgenusa
Topic: 175 Message: 181

> I see there have been some comments regarding my product, the
> BeeLine GPS. First off, more information is available here:

If I may add, I own both the BeeLine GPS and the BeeLine transmitter
from Greg. They are top notch work-out-of-the-box products.

182. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: BeeLine GPS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-14 15:28:59 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 175 Message: 182

Was there supposed to be a link on there?

Allen
KG6HXO

183. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: BeeLine GPS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-14 15:40:18 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 175 Message: 183

On Tue, 14 Nov 2006 CaptALord@... wrote:

> Was there supposed to be a link on there?

You can find one on the Links section of this group.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

184. Low Cost SAR/K9 Tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-15 21:32:25 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 184 Message: 184

I have had a couple of people ask me about doing a low cost, short range APRS transmitter for Ground and K9 applications. If there was such as thing offering less than 2 mile range, and the cost was dirt cheap, would you buy them? These would be UHF only. Cost less than??? $60.00? too much? I have apreciated your feed back on the Micro-Trak 300 and will implement much of what you have requested of me in the next revision.

73
Allen
VHS Products
KG6HXO

185. Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 00:26:24 UTC
From: watchtinker
Topic: 185 Message: 185

Hi -

I have implemented an 8 unit APRS system for SAR in Josephine County, Oregon. A few months ago I was approached by Klamath County SAR to put together a system for them. The people I'm dealing with are not hams, but I told them that they needed to have a ham run the system because a licensed control operator was required. In Josephine County we called the ARRL and explained what we are doing and asked if a club call would be appropriate. They said yes, so we obtained a club call from the FCC with a SAR ham as trustee.

I just received a call from Klamath County SAR. The guy there asked a local ham to help with the project. The local ham mentioned it to another ham. This resulted in a rather nasty phone call from an OO stating that if they activated the system he would issue them a citation for violating FCC rules. The OO claimed that each person carrying an APRS device would need to be licensed. My understanding is that the ham at base camp running the system would be the control operator. It seems unreasonable to require each APRS unit to be carried by a ham. This would severely limit the number of units we could put into the field.

When my contact told the OO that he had been told (by me) that only one control operator was required, the OO disagreed. The OO told the poor guy that he should call Riley Hollingsworth who would set him straight.

Are my assumptions incorrect? Or do we have an overzealous OO? What are other SAR units doing?

Thanks for listening,
Michael Kelley

186. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 03:36:28 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 185 Message: 186
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

187. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 04:56:50 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 185 Message: 187

On Wed, 15 Nov 2006, Tom Hayward wrote:

> It is my understanding that the Control Operator would have to be in control
> of each station for this to be legal. One way to do this would be to use a
> tracker such as the Tracker2 that can accept remote commands. If the Control
> Operator ever needs to "prove" that he/she has control of the operation of
> the station, all he/she needs to do is issue a remote command to the unit
> ("See, I'm in control--I can make it stop!").
>
> I'm sure my interpretation of the law is different than others (or wrong) so
> I'd hope someone more knowledgeable in the subject is able to respond.

I'm not "knowledgeable" about it per se, but I've seen this
discussed over and over again on various APRS lists and have formed
my own opinions after reading the rules and seeing the posts from
the APRS "leaders" several times on it.

The general concensus is that all you need is an on/off switch on
the tracker package, plus some way to communicate with the person
carrying it. That can be cell-phone, FRS, GMRS, 2-meters,
commercial FM, land-line, whatever you have. If you can contact
someone else in the team by voice and have them relay a message to
the tracker carrier, that is enough.

To make a long story short, you can still be the control operator
and "command" the person on the other end of the link to turn on or
off the tracker. Because the tracker transmits at a time specified
by the firmware of the tracker, they're not actually _causing_ a
transmission to occur if and when they turn it on, so that gets
around another possible rule violation.

I'm an Extra and the licensee of a club callsign that we obtained
for our SAR group. I would have absolutely no qualms about
operating trackers as I described above, carried by non-hams. Of
course I'd prefer hams to carry them, but it's not a requirement.

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

188. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal? ::Some Help::

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 05:08:20 UTC
From: Allen Boehm
Topic: 188 Message: 188

What Freq, are you using? If you are using a freq that requires a license, then the short answer is yes each person TRANSMITTING on that freq, would need a license. You can email me off list if you like and I will try to help. I am sorry you recieved a nasty phone call. The majority of Licensed Amature Operators enjoy helping people and would encourage every one that can get a license to get one. It is only a 35 question test and a small fee <20.00.
Al
KE5EUP@...
----- Original Message ----
From: Tom Hayward <tom@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2006 9:36:28 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

It is my understanding that the Control Operator would have to be in control of each station for this to be legal. One way to do this would be to use a tracker such as the Tracker2 that can accept remote commands. If the Control Operator ever needs to "prove" that he/she has control of the operation of the station, all he/she needs to do is issue a remote command to the unit ("See, I'm in control--I can make it stop!").

I'm sure my interpretation of the law is different than others (or wrong) so I'd hope someone more knowledgeable in the subject is able to respond.

Tom, KD7LXL

On 11/15/06,
watchtinker <watchtinker@ yahoo.com> wrote:

Hi -

I have implemented an 8 unit APRS system for SAR in Josephine County,

Oregon. A few months ago I was approached by Klamath County SAR to

put together a system for them. The people I'm dealing with are not

hams, but I told them that they needed to have a ham run the system

because a licensed control operator was required. In Josephine County

we called the ARRL and explained what we are doing and asked if a club

call would be appropriate. They said yes, so we obtained a club call

from the FCC with a SAR ham as trustee.

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local ham to help with the project. The local ham mentioned it to

another ham. This resulted in a rather nasty phone call from an OO stating that if they activated the system he would issue them a citation for violating FCC rules. The OO claimed that each person carrying an APRS device would need to be licensed. My understanding is that the ham at base camp running the system would be the control operator. It seems unreasonable to require each APRS unit to be carried by a ham. This would severely limit the number of units we could put into the field.

When my contact told the OO that he had been told (by me) that only one control operator was required, the OO disagreed. The OO told the poor guy that he should call Riley Hollingsworth who would set him straight.

Are my assumptions incorrect? Or do we have an overzealous OO? What are other SAR units doing?

Thanks for listening,

Michael Kelley

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}
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font-size:100%;
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#ygrp-sponsor .ad a:hover{
text-decoration:underline;
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}
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font-size:120%;
}
blockquote{margin:0 0 0 4px;}
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189. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 05:00:50 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 185 Message: 189

On Thu, 16 Nov 2006, watchtinker wrote:

> When my contact told the OO that he had been told (by me) that only
> one control operator was required, the OO disagreed. The OO told the
> poor guy that he should call Riley Hollingsworth who would set him
> straight.
>
> Are my assumptions incorrect? Or do we have an overzealous OO? What
> are other SAR units doing?

I won't go as far as to say that it's an overzealous person, but to
anyone who's actually studied the rules, the sort of operation
you're describing is just fine. The ham on-site is in control of
the trackers if he can communicate with the teams and ask them to
turn on/off the tracker package, and if there are no user-accessible
controls that would affect how the transmitter package functions.
In other words, package it up tight so that the only control is an
on/off switch, or they can be turned off by removing the batteries.

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

190. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal? ::Some Help::

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 06:51:46 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 188 Message: 190
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

191. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 09:41:03 UTC
From: Richard Murnane
Topic: 185 Message: 191

Hi all,

On 16/11/2006, at 11:26 AM, watchtinker wrote:

> I have implemented an 8 unit APRS system for SAR in Josephine County,
> Oregon. A few months ago I was approached by Klamath County SAR to
> put together a system for them. The people I'm dealing with are not
> hams, but I told them that they needed to have a ham run the system
> because a licensed control operator was required.

Presumably the SAR team has its own (non-ham) radio communications gear for normal voice comms. Why not set the trackers up "mic-E" style, ie transmitting the APRS data at the end of each voice transmission, using the non-ham gear? At least that would take any ham violations out of the picture, but whether it's legal on the radio frequencies used by the SAR team is another matter.

73 Richard VK2SKY

Richard.Murnane@...

192. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal? ::Some Help::

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 14:10:07 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 188 Message: 192

On Wed, 15 Nov 2006, Tom Hayward wrote:

> >yes each person TRANSMITTING on that freq, would need a license.
> > Al
> > KE5EUP@...
>
> This is where I am confused. The SAR team is not transmitting on that
> frequency. The person causing the tracker to transmit is the licensed
> Control Operator who programmed the tracker at the beginning of the search,
> despite the tracker being in the possession of the unlicensed search team.

Correct, and it's an important distinction.

> If people still frown at an unlicensed tracker, just use a digipeating
> tracker. Last I checked digipeaters are legal, and the local hill has never
> been licensed--apparently you don't need a license to hold a digipeater.
> This also eliminates the need to send up a separate digipeater to set on the
> hill somewhere.

I plan to use tracker/anti-tracker/digipeaters at some point in the
future, for each team. This gives each team's position to every
other team and base, plus each team is a WIDEn-N (actually SARn-N)
digipeater for every other team.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

193. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 14:14:17 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 185 Message: 193

On Thu, 16 Nov 2006, Richard Murnane wrote:

> Presumably the SAR team has its own (non-ham) radio communications
> gear for normal voice comms. Why not set the trackers up "mic-E"
> style, ie transmitting the APRS data at the end of each voice
> transmission, using the non-ham gear? At least that would take any
> ham violations out of the picture, but whether it's legal on the
> radio frequencies used by the SAR team is another matter.

This is certainly another way to go about it. There are certain
things that need to be tackled though:

*) Does the commercial license allow emissions type "F2D"?

*) Will people be ok with the short braaaappps at the end of each
transmission? They'd basically sound like a very strange courtesy
tone, plus you can theoretically make TXD=0, and use Mic-E or
Base-91 protocol to keep the extra part of the transmissions very
short.

*) If digipeating and/or timed/smartbeaconed tracker transmissions
are happening as well on-channel (not just Mic-E), will voice ops be
affected? Think of time-critical things like rope or helo
operations where a quick transmission might be a safety issue.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

194. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 14:24:09 UTC
From: Mike
Topic: 185 Message: 194

Hi,

I'm just a Tech level ham but it seems to me that technically this could be seen as third party transmissions. If that were so it shouldn't be a problem so long as there is a licensed control operator. I'm interested I this since I head up a canine SAR team. Thanks.

Mike
----- Original Message -----
From: Richard Murnane
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2006 04:41
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Hi all,

On 16/11/2006, at 11:26 AM, watchtinker wrote:

> I have implemented an 8 unit APRS system for SAR in Josephine County,
> Oregon. A few months ago I was approached by Klamath County SAR to
> put together a system for them. The people I'm dealing with are not
> hams, but I told them that they needed to have a ham run the system
> because a licensed control operator was required.
Presumably the SAR team has its own (non-ham) radio communications gear for normal voice comms. Why not set the trackers up "mic-E" style, ie transmitting the APRS data at the end of each voice transmission, using the non-ham gear? At least that would take any ham violations out of the picture, but whether it's legal on the radio frequencies used by the SAR team is another matter.

73 Richard VK2SKY

Richard.Murnane@...

195. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 15:38:21 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 185 Message: 195

Have any of you heard of findu.com? Know the guy who runs it? He's
pretty well-respected in the APRS world, to say the least. I can't
say I _always_ agree with him, but most of the time I do. This is
one of the times I do:

<http://www.tapr.org/pipermail/aprssig/2005-October/009794.html>

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

196. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 15:03:42 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 185 Message: 196

On Thu, 16 Nov 2006, Mike wrote:

> I'm just a Tech level ham but it seems to me that technically
> this could be seen as third party transmissions. If that were
> so it shouldn't be a problem so long as there is a licensed
> control operator.

MIC-E Transmissions:

If you're doing Mic-E style transmissions (not to be confused with Mic-E protocol, which is a different thing), then I don't think you can consider that to be 3rd-party transmissions, and you'd need a licensed operator controlling that radio in all cases.

If you had a licensed operator standing RIGHT NEXT to that person and proper identification was done, then yes, it'd be 3rd-party communication, nice and legal.

What you can't do in that case (Mic-E transmissions) is have a non-ham carry that radio into the woods without a ham next to them, and initiate a transmission. It isn't allowed that a non-licensed individual control a transmitter. No grey area there.

Unattended Operation:

What you _can_ do is have a ham wire up a tracker package that only has an on/off switch accessible, set it up on the right frequency and for proper operation, and hand that to a non-ham SAR member to carry into the woods or attach it to a vehicle in a public service event.

The control function is initiated by a ham via voice radio (SAR commercial radio, cell-phone, FRS/GMRS, or carrier pigeon) to have the non-ham turn the unit off in the field if necessary. This is the main point of contention here.

What's more, you can initiate the control function in the same manner to have the non-ham turn ON the tracker package: The tracker package may or may not initiate a transmission at that point, it's totally dependent on the firmware that the HAM SET UP. In other words, the non-ham is NOT controlling the transmitter.

Make sure you understand this point well: The non-ham is NOT initiating a transmission. The firmware is controling it, which was set up for proper operation by a ham.

Unattended operation of APRS _is_ allowed. Please explain to me how the Official Observer has determined that this is NOT unattended operation. It is in fact unattended operation.

Is that clear enough?

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

197. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 15:47:29 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 185 Message: 197

On Thu, 16 Nov 2006, Curt, WE7U wrote:

> Have any of you heard of findu.com? Know the guy who runs it? He's
> pretty well-respected in the APRS world, to say the least. I can't
> say I _always_ agree with him, but most of the time I do. This is
> one of the times I do:
>
> <http://www.tapr.org/pipermail/aprssig/2005-October/009794.html>

Hmmm. The next posting in the thread was mine, and applicable to
this list:

<http://www.tapr.org/pipermail/aprssig/2005-October/009795.html>

Hopefully things like that (there are more to be found out there
with a Google search) will placate people's fears about the FCC
rules here.

Shall we get into the "tactical callsigns are illegal" argument here
too? (By the way, they're perfectly legal)

I hope to see lots of APRS trackers out there soon with callsigns
like "Team1", "Dog2", "Horse3", "Helo"! Just remember to put a real
callsign in your status or comment text, at least every 10 minutes
to satisfy the rules.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

198. Unattended operation: Non-ham carrying SAR tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 17:22:34 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 198 Message: 198

FYI. Dave Dobbins, one of the movers/shakers in APRS in the Pacific Northwest/Canadian Southwest sent me this reply and ok'ed my posting it here. FWIW: This subject appears on APRSSIG peridically, at least twice a year, and those of us who've been into APRS for some time get tired of the same old arguments from the uninformed. Without further ado, here's Dave's response:

Message from: David Dobbins

Well my first reply is "Go ahead, report it if you can support it with Part 97 regulations, but you won't find any, as others have reported in the past and the FCC has no interest in the matters because they can't find anything wrong with it either. This is digital telemetry and automated PTT functions are authorized".

The control operator remains the person who owns the equipment. He/She can lend it out to anyone they desire. That person is prohibited from operating any switches that cause the equipment to go into PTT mode on either voice or data, unless they are a ham. The automated process of activating PTT on a timed cycle caused by circuitry in the system falls under automated telemetry and is a control operator function only.

Therefore if I want to set up a tracker in my wife's car, and have it wired to come on automatically when the ignition is engaged, that is OK as long as she doesn't control any of the radio/tracker functions.

Similarly, if I'm the richest ham on the block and I have over a dozen Garmin 201 wrist GPSs and Kenwood D7AG handy talkies I can configure them as SAR-1 thru SAR-15 and hand them out to the searchers (who may or may not be hams) and the radios go to PTT every 2 mins or so and there is no violation of any Part 97 regulation.

The same holds true for automatic repeater identification periodically. A timer circuit deems it necessary to go to PTT and transmit a voice or morse identification. The function remains under the control of the owner/operator and they don't have to be on scene to effect that periodic activation of the signal.

There's no smart OO who can come up with a justifiable reason to not allow SAR trackers to be in vehicles or on persons who are not ham radio operators simply because there is no prohibitive regulation. As with literally thousands of others similar operations in daily use, there is no violation or concern over the matter.

Of course we have those smarty-pants-know-it-alls who are so familiar with Part 97 they can recite it backwards, and I challenge them to show me or anyone else where it says these telemetry operations are prohibited. They can't do it, because it doesn't exist. They just don't like it, so they raise their ugly head and spout out Part 97 this and that and we'll get the FCC involved and Riley will pay you a personal visit and all the other BS they do, just because they don't like it. Tough beans.

David K7GPS

199. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 18:14:08 UTC
From: wa7nwp@jnos.org
Topic: 185 Message: 199

> When my contact told the OO that he had been told (by me) that only
> one control operator was required, the OO disagreed. The OO told the
> poor guy that he should call Riley Hollingsworth who would set him
> straight.

The FCC (and it's the ARRL's fault) just blasted most of the "relevance"
of Amateur HF activity and here we have another of our own nailing one of
the good things we can do on VHF.

Buy stock in the Cell Phone and BPL companies - we hams are POGO'ing
ourselves off the air..

A more constructive comment - the control operator sets the frequency,
power, content, etc. That's what's important. Having somebody else turn
if off and on doesn't affect the setup parameters.

73
Bill - WA7NWP

PS. If it wasn't such a dark day I'd pass along my standing tongue in
cheek comment (:-P)) that the OO's should be issuing citations to
D700 APRS stations for their long TXD but that's certainly not a big
concern these days.

200. Re: Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 19:32:30 UTC
From: C J Glover
Topic: 185 Message: 200

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Mike" <revmp777@...> wrote:
>
> Hi,
>
> I'm just a Tech level ham but it seems to me that technically this could be seen as third party transmissions. If that were so it shouldn't be a problem so long as there is a licensed control operator. I'm interested I this since I head up a canine SAR team. Thanks.
>
> Mike
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Richard Murnane
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2006 04:41
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?
>
>
> Hi all,
>
> On 16/11/2006, at 11:26 AM, watchtinker wrote:
>
> > I have implemented an 8 unit APRS system for SAR in Josephine County,
> > Oregon. A few months ago I was approached by Klamath County SAR to
> > put together a system for them. The people I'm dealing with are not
> > hams, but I told them that they needed to have a ham run the system
> > because a licensed control operator was required.
> Presumably the SAR team has its own (non-ham) radio communications
> gear for normal voice comms. Why not set the trackers up "mic-E"
> style, ie transmitting the APRS data at the end of each voice
> transmission, using the non-ham gear? At least that would take any
> ham violations out of the picture, but whether it's legal on the
> radio frequencies used by the SAR team is another matter.
>
> 73 Richard VK2SKY
>
> ____
>
> Richard.Murnane@...
>
> Why use a ham frequency at all....How about a SAR frequency such as 155.160? Which is the route our SAR team is exploring or our APRS operations...

201. RE: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 19:40:10 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 185 Message: 201

> If you're doing Mic-E style transmissions (not to be
> confused with Mic-E protocol, which is a different
> thing), then I don't think ...

I think the term you are looking for is called "PTT" mode.
We use that to distinguish APRS packets that go out after the
PTT is dropped on a voice transmission.

202. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 20:22:30 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 185 Message: 202

On Thu, 16 Nov 2006, C J Glover wrote:

> Why use a ham frequency at all....How about a SAR frequency such as
> 155.160? Which is the route our SAR team is exploring or our APRS
> operations...

You'll need to make sure your commercial license has emissions mode
"F2D" listed on it. If it's not there, you can't run APRS.

Other than that, nothing to stop you.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

203. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 20:49:09 UTC
From: jack swift
Topic: 185 Message: 203

the OO's are appointed by the ARRL -- you'd think they were qualified, but the only requirement seems to be 'wanna-be radio cop'.... ask the jerk which court you'd have to go to in order to pay his citation (maybe he appointed his dog as the judge <g>)...

on a lighter note -- i'd forward the correspondence or notes of conversations to the ARRL and let them deal with their ignorant OO.

At 12:26 AM 11/16/06 -0000, Michael Kelley wrote:
....we called the ARRL and explained what we are doing and asked if a club call would be appropriate.
.........This resulted in a rather nasty phone call from an OO stating that if they activated the system he would issue them a citation for violating FCC rules.
.........do we have an overzealous OO?

vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv
Jack Swift
I.E. Swift Co.
402 Shelden Ave.
Houghton, MI 49931
906-482-0530, 281-5300
Radio: N8WAV AAR5LD
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

204. RE: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 20:35:12 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 185 Message: 204

On Thu, 16 Nov 2006, Robert Bruninga wrote:

> I think the term you are looking for is called "PTT" mode.
> We use that to distinguish APRS packets that go out after the
> PTT is dropped on a voice transmission.

Do a Google search on:

"mic-e mode" repeater

You'll see that it's called mic-e mode all over the place, after the TAPR Mic-Encoder which provided this capability. Descriptions of the TH-D7A(G) also name the mode the same way. Perhaps descriptions of the D700A do this as well.

I've always heard it called "Mic-E mode". Some of your text and web pages also name it that. It's easy for people to confuse it with Mic-E protocol though, so maybe we should coin the term "Mic-E PTT mode" to make it very clear?

In any case, as long as we're talking about the same thing we're golden. Doesn't really matter what we call it.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

205. RE: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 20:51:18 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 185 Message: 205

OK, I think it is my turn to answer this question. I thought Curt answered it very well, so I refrained from jumping in on this one but since it is not put to rest yet, here I go.

A few years ago one of my fellow ARES/RACES members here in Mason County, WA sent an email to the ARRL to complain about me giving NON-Ham SAR Team members an APRS tracker and tracking them form Base Camp. He complained that I was in SAR Base and not standing next to the team using the tracker with my call sign on it. Well the ARRL did respond but I do not have a copy of that email since my laptop that it was on was stolen, so I will just briefly state what they stated in their answer. This answer is in total agreement with what Curt stated below.

As long as the CONTROL OPERATOR is in control of the tracker, it is legal. Being in control meant that the control operator gave the SAR Team a tracker that had a locked key-pad (or was not field reconfigurable) and the only thing the tracker operator could do was turn the tracker ON or OFF. Then ALSO the control operator had to have communication capability with the tracker operator so that if the tracker went frubar, it could be shut off at the control operator's direction. This communication capability was by ANY means. The control operator could be right next to the tracker operator, be able to reach the tracker operator via, cell-phone, commercial radio, FRS/GMRS radio's or any other means that the tracker operator was allowed to operate. Well during our SAR activities, each SAR team has a SAR radio which the control operator also has in SAR Base. So, the answer was pretty simple, there was no violation of the rules. The Control Operator was still in control of his tracker. He really would not even have to be in SAR Base but in any location where he could monitor the operation and have communication access with the SAR Team carrying his tracker.

Yes, it did upset me a little that one of my people would question our own operations but at least we got an answer that put everyone's mind at ease. So lets, once again, put this issue to rest until the next time someone raises the question. Yes, this issue comes up several times a year on the various APRS SIG discussions.

As far as dog tracker's go, they still fall into this legal interpretation since, at least in our county, the dog handler who has a SAR radio has to be within sight and complete control of his dog during all SAR Activities, therefore the dog handler can carry out the instructions of the control operator.

Hope this clarifies this issue and everyone can sleep soundly again,

Herb, KB7UVC
Mason County ARES/RACES ex-President & APRS Coordinator

Mason County ComVan: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-1
Mason County Relay Truck: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-2
Mason County EOC: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-3
Mason County Foot Tracker: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-6

Where I am walking: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-7
Where I am driving: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-8
My other vehicle: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-9

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On
> Behalf Of Curt Mills
> Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2006 8:57 PM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?
>
>
> On Wed, 15 Nov 2006, Tom Hayward wrote:
>
> > It is my understanding that the Control Operator would have to
> be in control
> > of each station for this to be legal. One way to do this would
> be to use a
> > tracker such as the Tracker2 that can accept remote commands.
> If the Control
> > Operator ever needs to "prove" that he/she has control of the
> operation of
> > the station, all he/she needs to do is issue a remote command
> to the unit
> > ("See, I'm in control--I can make it stop!").
> >
> > I'm sure my interpretation of the law is different than others
> (or wrong) so
> > I'd hope someone more knowledgeable in the subject is able to respond.
>
> I'm not "knowledgeable" about it per se, but I've seen this
> discussed over and over again on various APRS lists and have formed
> my own opinions after reading the rules and seeing the posts from
> the APRS "leaders" several times on it.
>
> The general concensus is that all you need is an on/off switch on
> the tracker package, plus some way to communicate with the person
> carrying it. That can be cell-phone, FRS, GMRS, 2-meters,
> commercial FM, land-line, whatever you have. If you can contact
> someone else in the team by voice and have them relay a message to
> the tracker carrier, that is enough.
>
> To make a long story short, you can still be the control operator
> and "command" the person on the other end of the link to turn on or
> off the tracker. Because the tracker transmits at a time specified
> by the firmware of the tracker, they're not actually _causing_ a
> transmission to occur if and when they turn it on, so that gets

> around another possible rule violation.
>
> I'm an Extra and the licensee of a club callsign that we obtained
> for our SAR group. I would have absolutely no qualms about
> operating trackers as I described above, carried by non-hams. Of
> course I'd prefer hams to carry them, but it's not a requirement.
>
> --
> Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
> http://www.eskimo.com/~archer

206. RE: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 22:15:01 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 185 Message: 206

Mic-E mode is the particular APRS format and as you say, is transmitted by a variety of devices. But the thread I was commenting on, was using the term to describe the very specifici mode of "PTT" operation which is independent of format and refers to the method of keying the transmitter. The legality of who keys the transmitter was the topic of the thread. Not the format used. Thanks Bob, WB4APR

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Curt, WE7U
> Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2006 3:35 PM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?
>
> On Thu, 16 Nov 2006, Robert Bruninga wrote:
>
> > I think the term you are looking for is called "PTT" mode.
> > We use that to distinguish APRS packets that go out after
the
> > PTT is dropped on a voice transmission.
>
> Do a Google search on:
>
> "mic-e mode" repeater
>
> You'll see that it's called mic-e mode all over the place,
after the
> TAPR Mic-Encoder which provided this capability. Descriptions
of
> the TH-D7A(G) also name the mode the same way. Perhaps
descriptions
> of the D700A do this as well.
>
> I've always heard it called "Mic-E mode". Some of your text
and web
> pages also name it that. It's easy for people to confuse it
with
> Mic-E protocol though, so maybe we should coin the term "Mic-E
PTT
> mode" to make it very clear?
>
> In any case, as long as we're talking about the same thing
we're
> golden. Doesn't really matter what we call it.

>
> --
> Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons:
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
> "Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
> "Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
> "The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate
system!"
>
>
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>
>
>

207. RE: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-16 22:16:34 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 185 Message: 207

> You'll see that it's called mic-e mode all over the place,
after the
> TAPR Mic-Encoder which provided this capability.

Ah, going back that far, I guess maybe we did use that term
interchangeably. Thanks for the reference.
Bob

>
> I've always heard it called "Mic-E mode". Some of your text
and web
> pages also name it that. It's easy for people to confuse it
with
> Mic-E protocol though, so maybe we should coin the term "Mic-E
PTT
> mode" to make it very clear?
>
> In any case, as long as we're talking about the same thing
we're
> golden. Doesn't really matter what we call it.
>
> --
> Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons:
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
> "Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
> "Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
> "The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate
system!"
>
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>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>

208. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal? ::Some Help::

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-17 01:20:42 UTC
From: Matt a
Topic: 188 Message: 208

Think of it this way you have your hamshack, Joe neighber comes by and wants to talk to his brother in switzerland. You establish the contact, he then talks to his brother. you go get a glass of tea, same scinerio.you still are the control operator in eaither situation. IT IS LEGAL!

----- Original Message ----
From: Tom Hayward <tom@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2006 1:51:46 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Is it Legal? ::Some Help::

>yes each person TRANSMITTING on that freq, would need a license.
> Al
> KE5EUP@yahoo. com

This is where I am confused. The SAR team is not transmitting on that frequency. The person causing the tracker to transmit is the licensed Control Operator who programmed the tracker at the beginning of the search, despite the tracker being in the possession of the unlicensed search team. Your email seemed to imply this wasn't the case, but it also didn't clarify.

If people still frown at an unlicensed tracker, just use a digipeating tracker. Last I checked digipeaters are legal, and the local hill has never been licensed--apparentl y you don't need a license to hold a digipeater. This also eliminates the need to send up a separate digipeater to set on the hill somewhere.

Tom, KD7LXL

209. Re: Is it Legal?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-17 17:57:10 UTC
From: watchtinker
Topic: 185 Message: 209

Wow! I never expected this level of activity about this question. My thanks to those who posted responses. I wasn't aware that this question was raised so often (obviously, or I wouldn't have raised it again). I'm sure there are other benefitted from this discussion. A couple of clarifications - I am an Extra Class ham (N6ZOC). All search teams carry SAR radios and that's how I implement the "remote" control of the trackers. We don't do Mic-E due to the difficulty of interfacing to the odd connector on the Kenwood radios we use.

Thanks again for the responses. I think we can let this one rest for at least another six months :).

Michael Kelley
N6ZOC

Sponsored Link

Don't quit your job - take classes online
www.Classesusa.com

210. DMAPPER Update posted Ver 2.15b3

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-17 21:49:29 UTC
From: DaveN roadfacts.com
Topic: 210 Message: 210

I have posted an update for Dmapper with some minor changes and a 2 Callsign DEMO version expiration of November 2007 for those wanting to try it.

Existing Dmapper users with connectivity to the internet should be able to use the Update utility under the Dmapper Help menu.

Enjoy
Dave Neys W7PDQ
www.dmapper.com

211. RE: [Kenwood_TH-D7] TH-D7 Power up problem

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-22 01:01:11 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 211 Message: 211

Our county recently tried to use their TH-D7 SAR tracker I set up for them several years ago and they could not make it work. I did my darnedest to try to talk them through all the possible problems. I did not succeed. So, I now have the entire tracker here at my house for troubleshooting.

Here is what I discovered so far:

1. Even with a good fully charged battery attached, it will not power up. I bent the radio contacts out some more but that did not help.

2. With 12+ V attached to the external plug, I can read voltage (11.6 V, which is normal since a diode is involved) on the normal battery connection terminals.

3. The external battery pack cable that I made for them years ago, causes intermittent connection to the radio. It does the same when connected to my radio. I built a new cable using the power connectors I bought from Mouser and those are also too loose and work intermittently. This looseness/intermittent connection was experienced on both the county's SAR TH-D7 and my personal TH-D7 radio.

4. I supplied external power to the normal radio battery terminals on the SAR TH-D7 and it will NOT power up. Applying the same power to the battery terminals on my radio makes mine work just fine.

So, it appears that there is a problem between the normal battery terminals on the back of the DEM radio to the circuit board inside the radio. Joy, joy..... I have never seen or heard of such a problem. Is there anyone that has seen this problem before? If so, what did you do to fix it?

My late elk hunting season starts tomorrow, so this radio problem will have to wait till after my hunting season. Any inputs in the mean time would be appreciated.

The unfortunate part of this problem is that this is the first time that they really tried to use this TH-D7 tracker during an actual search. Sure would have been nice if it had worked. I have been trying for years to get them to use this tracker during an actual search and now when they finally tried it, it would not work. It worked just fine about a year ago when I checked it out. As far as I know, no one has used it since then.

Herb, KB7UVC
Mason County ARES/RACES ex-President & APRS Coordinator

Mason County ComVan: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-1
Mason County Relay Truck: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-2
Mason County EOC: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-3

Mason County Foot Tracker: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-6

212. I like your attractive profile!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-24 09:45:10 UTC
From: sarahje005
Topic: 212 Message: 212

What an attractive profile you have! I'm interested in you. Check my profile to find out if we're a match:
http://www.geocities.com/metbuty1/

213. Re:I like your attractive profile! (MODERATORS)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-24 11:50:58 UTC
From: Greg Hicks
Topic: 213 Message: 213

Please put new members on Moderator Approval (at least for first message); I have the groups I own or help moderate set with "Moderator Approval" for both new members and first messages, and have no trouble with this type SPAM. -- Greg, K9TLA

<==><==><==><==><==><==><==><==><==><==>
Greg Hicks & K9 Tala (K9TLA, General, EM79br)
Midwest Search Dogs & Hancock County EMA
NASAR SARTech II & K9 SARTechIII
k9tla.blogspot.com

Everyone is raving about the all-new Yahoo! Mail beta.

214. Re:I like your attractive profile! (MODERATORS)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-24 16:12:04 UTC
From: Kevin Ives
Topic: 213 Message: 214

Thanks for the recommendation. I have removed the poster and changed
the membership to Moderator Approval.

Kevin

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Greg Hicks <grizhicks@...> wrote:
>
> Please put new members on Moderator Approval (at least for first
message); I have the groups I own or help moderate set with "Moderator
Approval" for both new members and first messages, and have no trouble
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>
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> Greg Hicks & K9 Tala (K9TLA, General, EM79br)
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> k9tla.blogspot.com
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> --------------------------------
> Everyone is raving about the all-new Yahoo! Mail beta.
>

215. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re:I like your attractive profile! (MODERATORS)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-24 18:06:20 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 213 Message: 215

How do you set moderation for first messages? For my groups, I see an option to enable moderation for new users, but that requires me to manually disable moderation for them after they've joined and posted. Is there another option somewhere?

Scott

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Greg Hicks
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2006 3:51 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re:I like your attractive profile! (MODERATORS)

Please put new members on Moderator Approval (at least for first message); I have the groups I own or help moderate set with "Moderator Approval" for both new members and first messages, and have no trouble with this type SPAM. -- Greg, K9TLA

<==><==><==><==><==><==><==><==><==><==>
Greg Hicks & K9 Tala (K9TLA, General, EM79br)
Midwest Search Dogs & Hancock County EMA
NASAR SARTech II & K9 SARTechIII
k9tla.blogspot.com

Everyone is raving about the <http://us.rd.yahoo.com/evt=42297/*http://advision.webevents.yahoo.com/mailbeta> all-new Yahoo! Mail beta.

216. what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-26 15:18:54 UTC
From: mo_fire_chief
Topic: 216 Message: 216

i am working on setting up tracker units for our sar teams using a tinytrak3+, their gps unit, and connecting it into the teams radio system so the weight issue is less. on our laptop, we run delourme topo6.0, and i have a kam to receive the signal at the base. with all of this, what else do i need to be able to track the teams as they move, as in software or hardware?

Thanks
Garry

217. RE: [SAR_APRS] what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-26 18:25:19 UTC
From: Bob Wagner
Topic: 216 Message: 217

Garry, You will need a serial connection between the KAM and the computer, either a serial port on the computer or a USB to serial converter. For software Dmapper seems to work well (www.roadfacts.com <http://www.roadfacts.com/>). You may have an issue with running them on your team frequency. Your License has to state that you are running a digital signal along with the voice traffic. We got around that buy using ham frequencies, which is working well, and we give the members a ham class to get their license if they want, so we have enough hams to operate them. Another item you may need is a digipeater in case teams get too far out.

Bob Wagner

Alpine Rescue Team

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of mo_fire_chief
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2006 8:19 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] what else do i need?

i am working on setting up tracker units for our sar teams using a tinytrak3+, their gps unit, and connecting it into the teams radio system so the weight issue is less. on our laptop, we run delourme topo6.0, and i have a kam to receive the signal at the base. with all of this, what else do i need to be able to track the teams as they move, as in software or hardware?

Thanks
Garry

218. Re: [SAR_APRS] what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-26 21:05:19 UTC
From: DaveN roadfacts.com
Topic: 216 Message: 218

Garry,
If you are going to use Dmapper I would suggest looking at "Terrain Navigator" and "National Geographic Topo!" for mapping. (Delorme will also work but may require more user intervention to post to the map) Terrain Navigator is more cost but gives you a pretty good search tool, even when NOT using trackers. National Geographic is a cheaper option but works in a pinch. Links to both of them are on the Dmapper web site www.dmapper.com along with a write-up on using "Dmapper in Search and Rescue".

In my experience with field tracker units, they need to be done in such a way that the interconnect wires between components are mounted and packaged in such a way that they don't pull loose or bother the searcher. (That's why a Kenwood D7A works well) If you can get your unit in a waterproof container, that will slip in the top of their packs, that may work well. Most searchers don't want another package or device to hang around them, as they are well established with the things they carry and need access to. We are also moving to the OEM style gps units (with no display) and dedicating them to the tracker package, rather than use the searchers unit.

Good luck!
Dave Neys W7PDQ
www.dmapper.com

----- Original Message -----
From: "Bob Wagner" <bwagner41@...>
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2006 10:25 AM
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] what else do i need?

> Garry, You will need a serial connection between the KAM and the computer,
> either a serial port on the computer or a USB to serial converter. For
> software Dmapper seems to work well (www.roadfacts.com
> <http://www.roadfacts.com/>). You may have an issue with running them on
> your team frequency. Your License has to state that you are running a
> digital signal along with the voice traffic. We got around that buy using
> ham frequencies, which is working well, and we give the members a ham
class
> to get their license if they want, so we have enough hams to operate them.
> Another item you may need is a digipeater in case teams get too far out.
>
>
>
> Bob Wagner
>
> Alpine Rescue Team
>

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> _____
>
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf
> Of mo_fire_chief
> Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2006 8:19 AM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] what else do i need?
>
>
>
> i am working on setting up tracker units for our sar teams using a
> tinytrak3+, their gps unit, and connecting it into the teams radio
> system so the weight issue is less. on our laptop, we run delourme
> topo6.0, and i have a kam to receive the signal at the base. with all
> of this, what else do i need to be able to track the teams as they
> move, as in software or hardware?
>
> Thanks
> Garry
>
>
>
>

219. RE: [SAR_APRS] what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-26 21:39:52 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 216 Message: 219

On Sun, 26 Nov 2006, Bob Wagner wrote:

> Garry, You will need a serial connection between the KAM and the computer,
> either a serial port on the computer or a USB to serial converter. For
> software Dmapper seems to work well (www.roadfacts.com
> <http://www.roadfacts.com/>). You may have an issue with running them on
> your team frequency. Your License has to state that you are running a
> digital signal along with the voice traffic. We got around that buy using
> ham frequencies, which is working well, and we give the members a ham class
> to get their license if they want, so we have enough hams to operate them.
> Another item you may need is a digipeater in case teams get too far out.

Yep. All excellent advice. Please look at the LINKS section on
this Yahoo group for additional info about all this, and ask more
questions as you find out more about specific areas you need to
learn about. Also: Please ask on the list instead of in personal
mail so that more people will see the info. It'll also be in the
archives and searchable by people in the future with the same or
similar questions.

> i am working on setting up tracker units for our sar teams using a
> tinytrak3+, their gps unit, and connecting it into the teams radio
> system so the weight issue is less. on our laptop, we run delourme
> topo6.0, and i have a kam to receive the signal at the base. with all
> of this, what else do i need to be able to track the teams as they
> move, as in software or hardware?

A TinyTrack-3 or an OpenTracker-1 are probably my current favorites
but there are other ways to do it as well, like a Kenwood TH-D7A(G)
in which case you only need it and a GPS (TNC is built-in) or
perhaps a microTNC+ and a radio. There are also the Tigertrak
units.

As far as base, you can use a hardware TNC like a KAM, or you can
use a soundcard TNC (AGPWE or on Linux/Solaris you can use the
"Soundmodem" TNC). For reliability I'd probably go for a hardware
TNC like you're planning.

As far as the software for tracking, I have my favorites. Everybody
does. Figure out which operating system you want to use first, then
figure out which APRS program will give you the features you need on
that operating system. See my APRS Client Capabilities Chart to see
in-detail what each APRS package provides. It's in the links
section. There's also a SAR APRS page there that might give you a
quicker overview to let you make an initial selection among those
with SAR features.

Again, ask further questions on here and let's keep this list nice
and active!

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

220. Re: [SAR_APRS] what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-26 22:40:31 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 216 Message: 220

I've been sitting and watching the responses to Garry- folks I'm impressed! Great feedback for him and it is all dead on! Sometimes these yahoo groups do work!

Thanks people for some great feedback. NOW! Who's going to make a live APRS demo/presentation for the NASAR 2007 conference?

Capt. David Clarke
NJSAR J40

----- Original Message -----
From: mo_fire_chief
Date: Sunday, November 26, 2006 10:22 am
Subject: [SAR_APRS] what else do i need?
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

> i am working on setting up tracker units for our sar teams using
> a
> tinytrak3+, their gps unit, and connecting it into the teams
> radio
> system so the weight issue is less. on our laptop, we run
> delourme
> topo6.0, and i have a kam to receive the signal at the base.
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> of this, what else do i need to be able to track the teams as
> they
> move, as in software or hardware?
>
> Thanks
> Garry
>
>

221. Re: [SAR_APRS] what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-26 23:12:34 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 216 Message: 221

On Sun, 26 Nov 2006 dcassoc@... wrote:

> I've been sitting and watching the responses to Garry- folks I'm impressed! Great feedback for him and it is all dead on! Sometimes these yahoo groups do work!
>
> Thanks people for some great feedback. NOW! Who's going to make a live APRS demo/presentation for the NASAR 2007 conference?

I'm hoping to get invited back for the WASAR2007 conference to help teach APRS, but have no plans for the NASAR conference. Herb and I taught "Radio Tracking Your SAR Teams" at the WASAR2006 conference in Enumclaw, WA. The next WASAR conference is going to be up at the Crystal Mountain ski area, and I'm really looking forward to it. I used to hunt and ski in that area.

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

222. Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 01:59:16 UTC
From: mo_fire_chief
Topic: 216 Message: 222

I want to thank everyone who has replied to my question. our search group is still young(3 years) and the donations coming in is not what it needs to be, so we are looking at the cheap ways to get things done right now. the group already owns 7 alinco 196 radios, so the tiny trak units look to be a cheaper fix than buying the kenwoods. in addition, and i don't want to start a thread on how good or bad kenwoods are, but i did talk to one sar team several weeks ago and they did not like the kenwoods and how they held up in the field.(their oinion) anyway, already having those radios, i decided to try the tinytraks. i will look at the other mapping programs in the next couple of weeks, and let everyone know what i come up with. again, thanks to everyone's advice

garry

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "mo_fire_chief" <ggmoore1@...> wrote:
>
> i am working on setting up tracker units for our sar teams using a
> tinytrak3+, their gps unit, and connecting it into the teams radio
> system so the weight issue is less. on our laptop, we run delourme
> topo6.0, and i have a kam to receive the signal at the base. with
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> of this, what else do i need to be able to track the teams as they
> move, as in software or hardware?
>
> Thanks
> Garry
>

223. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 11:04:33 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 216 Message: 223

If you, or any other readers, are interested I have the 2006 SAR Conference presentation GPS/Digital Mapping. This presentation discusses GPS and Digital Mapping (i.e. what you can do with a map, a short mapping software comparison, websites for downloading mapping data, and a host of other discussions). If you would like a copy, please email me directly (dcassoc@...) BUT, this is a large file <20meg so I don't recommend a dial-up link.

Its can be freely distributed, the author won't mind (I know as I am the author).

Capt. David Clarke
NJSAR-J40
Sr. GPS/Digital Mapping Instructor-NJSAR

----- Original Message -----
From: mo_fire_chief
Date: Sunday, November 26, 2006 9:16 pm
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

> I want to thank everyone who has replied to my question. our
> search
> group is still young(3 years) and the donations coming in is not
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> it needs to be, so we are looking at the cheap ways to get
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> addition, and i don't want to start a thread on how good or bad
> kenwoods are, but i did talk to one sar team several weeks ago
> and they
> did not like the kenwoods and how they held up in the
> field.(their
> oinion) anyway, already having those radios, i decided to try
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> couple of weeks, and let everyone know what i come up with.
> again,
> thanks to everyone's advice
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> garry
>
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>
> --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "mo_fire_chief" wrote:
> >
> > i am working on setting up tracker units for our sar teams
> using a
> > tinytrak3+, their gps unit, and connecting it into the teams
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> > of this, what else do i need to be able to track the teams as
> they
> > move, as in software or hardware?
> >
> > Thanks
> > Garry
> >
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>
>

224. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 11:02:21 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 216 Message: 224

On Mon, 27 Nov 2006, mo_fire_chief wrote:

> I want to thank everyone who has replied to my question. our search
> group is still young(3 years) and the donations coming in is not what
> it needs to be, so we are looking at the cheap ways to get things done
> right now. the group already owns 7 alinco 196 radios, so the tiny
> trak units look to be a cheaper fix than buying the kenwoods.

Also check out the Opentracker units. They're open-source, so you
can download the latest firmware and flash it into them any time you
wish. They're also slightly cheaper than the Tinytrak's and in my
experience more reliable in the long-term. I've run both in my Jeep
at various times and now I stick with the Opentrackers. I've been a
beta-tester for each at various times.

> in
> addition, and i don't want to start a thread on how good or bad
> kenwoods are, but i did talk to one sar team several weeks ago and they
> did not like the kenwoods and how they held up in the field.(their
> oinion)

Yes. They can be a bit fragile and this has been documented in
various places. Antenna connector and belt clip are two of the
problem areas (they each break easily), plus they're not waterproof.
As far as an all-in-one package though, they're pretty much all
that's out there. Attach a GPS and go.

> anyway, already having those radios, i decided to try the
> tinytraks. i will look at the other mapping programs in the next
> couple of weeks, and let everyone know what i come up with. again,
> thanks to everyone's advice

You've got several developers of APRS applications on this list.
Xastir, APRSdos, and DMapper are all represented here, perhaps
others.

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

225. Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 14:59:54 UTC
From: usna71
Topic: 216 Message: 225

Along the lines of this I am interested in preparing packages for three functions. One is for ground searchers to send their location back to the IC Post. Second is for the ground vehicles to also send location back to IC Post. Third is to digipeat. This could be on the ground vehicle or from an airborne platform. I have been considering an approach for dedicated packages and would like feedback on it. For GPS I want to use a SiRF Star III 20 channel receiver for better reception under a tree canopy (such as Deluo Universal GPS PRO), a dedicated VHF data radio with 5-25 watts and a TNC (such as TinyTrak3 or OpenTracker). For the digipeater I would swap out the TNC for a KPC3+. What is the collective opinion? I was looking for something more robust than the Kenwood option.

226. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 15:22:52 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 216 Message: 226

> Along the lines of this I am interested in preparing packages for
> three functions. One is for ground searchers to send their location
> back to the IC Post. Second is for the ground vehicles to also send
> location back to IC Post. Third is to digipeat. This could be on the

I'll have more beta test kits for my new Tracker2 (the successor to the OpenTracker) ready in a week or so. If you don't mind some rough edges and incomplete documentation, it should do the job. It's a tracker and digipeater, and will allow field teams to see where everyone is (along with waypoints generated manually by the IC) on their GPS map display if they have one.

Give me a few more weeks and I'll have some test units available with an integrated 6-watt transceiver, but they're not going to be cheap. I'm using commercial off-the-shelf RF boards.

Scott
N1VG

227. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 15:21:48 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 216 Message: 227

On Mon, 27 Nov 2006, usna71 wrote:

> Along the lines of this I am interested in preparing packages for
> three functions. One is for ground searchers to send their location
> back to the IC Post. Second is for the ground vehicles to also send
> location back to IC Post. Third is to digipeat. This could be on the
> ground vehicle or from an airborne platform. I have been considering
> an approach for dedicated packages and would like feedback on it. For
> GPS I want to use a SiRF Star III 20 channel receiver for better
> reception under a tree canopy (such as Deluo Universal GPS PRO), a
> dedicated VHF data radio with 5-25 watts and a TNC (such as TinyTrak3
> or OpenTracker). For the digipeater I would swap out the TNC for a
> KPC3+. What is the collective opinion? I was looking for something
> more robust than the Kenwood option.

Instead of the KPC-3+ for the digi, just deploy Tracker2's for all
the vehicles and the portable units, so that everyone's a
digipeater.

You'll see that I posted about that configuration on this group
before. It's the direction I want to head in.

Every tracker can be a SARn-N dupe-checking preemptive digipeater.
Use a path of "WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR7-7" and you'll use the existing
APRS infrastructure when available, the SARn-N infrastructure that
you carry with you on your backs and in your vehicles when not.

I haven't heard any good arguments against such a configuration yet,
but I'm certainly listening if anyone has any!

With the Tracker2 you also get the capability to plot APRS positions
as waypoints on your mapping GPS. The SAR teams would know where
there were relative to other SAR teams and base. You could even use
that as a rudimentary form of messaging by posting objects near a
team with appropriate names...

The downside: Tracker2's are still in beta-test, so you can't buy
them yet.

Another option may be the TinyTrak4, but it's in beta-test as well
and the software isn't as mature yet. Give him time.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

228. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 16:31:14 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 216 Message: 228

Curt, WE7U wrote:
> Every tracker can be a SARn-N dupe-checking preemptive digipeater.
> Use a path of "WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR7-7" and you'll use the existing
> APRS infrastructure when available, the SARn-N infrastructure that
> you carry with you on your backs and in your vehicles when not.

Do you want non-portable stations to use the SARn-N alias? If so, then you may not want any of the existing WIDEn-N digis to support the SAR alias. The management capabilities of Bob's new paradigm use most of the space available in KPC3 digis, so you wouldn't be able to deal with the use of SAR7-7 (for example) by non-SAR units looking for a way around the management restrictions imposed on WIDEn-N. Of course, if other digi hardware provides more space for management, then you have more flexibility.

I've been thinking of using the TEMPn-N (special event) alias for SAR, and it would also be available for non-SAR uses, and it would be more "standard" than "SAR".

We have designated SAR for use in our area, only by portable (QRP) stations, and SAR is supported in the regional digis (KPC-3 based). In addition, mobile stations digi SAR only (not WIDE) to support the portables, as do home stations that provide relevant coverage. So our portable path is something like SAR,WIDE2-2 and works throughout the region, whether or not an operation is in progress. We don't have many trackers at present (new options are being watched with great interest!), but the network is working. The system has worked well for several training and real operations.

Every-tracker-a-digi will be an interesting capability to use!

73 de Mykle N7JZT

229. Tracker, DIGI and TNC functionality with battery

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 17:55:07 UTC
From: Elcom Research
Topic: 216 Message: 229

Hi,

I'm Ioannis Mourtsiadis from Elcom Research.

I would like to put my 5 cents and inform you also about one another unit offering Tracker, DIGI and TNC functionality (with included rechargeable battery). It is mature firmware already working for 2 years and more. There are more than 1000 units working around the world with this firmware. It is not device for self soldering. It is 100% SMT technology and is offering only as a complete tested device; author of the firmware and software is well known George Rossopoulos - SV2AGW. We are using CML chipset for modem as the highest quality of modulation and demodulation is offered on the market by CML chipset. It is a crystal based modem, so it is stable for any kind of temperature influence. A special care has been token for Analog (Radio) and DIGITAL grounds splitting in order to avoid any noise influence as also for PC protection. It is coming with USB interface already implemented.

You can find more info about it in our USA distributor http://thedigitalham.com/ or in our website www.elcom.gr <http://www.elcom.gr/>

Prices are starting already form 99 USD with included researchable battery.

Best Regards

Ioannis Mourtsiadis /Elcom Research

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Curt, WE7U
Sent: Δευτέρα, 27 Νοεμβρίου 2006 5:22 μμ
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

On Mon, 27 Nov 2006, usna71 wrote:

> Along the lines of this I am interested in preparing packages for
> three functions. One is for ground searchers to send their location
> back to the IC Post. Second is for the ground vehicles to also send
> location back to IC Post. Third is to digipeat. This could be on the
> ground vehicle or from an airborne platform. I have been considering
> an approach for dedicated packages and would like feedback on it. For
> GPS I want to use a SiRF Star III 20 channel receiver for better
> reception under a tree canopy (such as Deluo Universal GPS PRO), a
> dedicated VHF data radio with 5-25 watts and a TNC (such as TinyTrak3

> or OpenTracker). For the digipeater I would swap out the TNC for a
> KPC3+. What is the collective opinion? I was looking for something
> more robust than the Kenwood option.

Instead of the KPC-3+ for the digi, just deploy Tracker2's for all
the vehicles and the portable units, so that everyone's a
digipeater.

You'll see that I posted about that configuration on this group
before. It's the direction I want to head in.

Every tracker can be a SARn-N dupe-checking preemptive digipeater.
Use a path of "WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR7-7" and you'll use the existing
APRS infrastructure when available, the SARn-N infrastructure that
you carry with you on your backs and in your vehicles when not.

I haven't heard any good arguments against such a configuration yet,
but I'm certainly listening if anyone has any!

With the Tracker2 you also get the capability to plot APRS positions
as waypoints on your mapping GPS. The SAR teams would know where
there were relative to other SAR teams and base. You could even use
that as a rudimentary form of messaging by posting objects near a
team with appropriate names...

The downside: Tracker2's are still in beta-test, so you can't buy
them yet.

Another option may be the TinyTrak4, but it's in beta-test as well
and the software isn't as mature yet. Give him time.

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Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.
<http://www.eskimo.com/~archer> com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

230. Re: [SAR_APRS] Tracker, DIGI and TNC functionality with battery

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 18:22:11 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 216 Message: 230

I guess my Greek is a little weak... Is this a stand alone device or a USB TNC for PCs?

Allen
KG6HXO

231. RE: [SAR_APRS] Tracker, DIGI and TNC functionality with battery

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 18:35:21 UTC
From: scott@opentrac.org
Topic: 216 Message: 231

Both. It has a USB cable built in, but it also has an RJ45 connector with the required serial input. I have one, haven't ever used it for more than a KISS TNC though. Maybe someone who's used one more can comment on its suitability for SAR.

Scott
N1VG

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of CaptALord@...
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006 10:22 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Tracker, DIGI and TNC functionality with battery

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Allen
KG6HXO

232. RE: [SAR_APRS] Tracker, DIGI and TNC functionality with battery

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 18:38:39 UTC
From: Elcom Research
Topic: 216 Message: 232

Good.

It a very small device, with a size of old box of matches.

Go to the first page of www.elcom.gr <http://www.elcom.gr/> so you will see the size on a hand. It is including 120 mAh rechargeable battery of NiMH. It is enough for about 3-5 hours independent working time. You can use it with your handy transceiver. Recharging of battery is done via USB port.

Sizes for unit are 0.8x2.3x1.6 inches. Many peoples are using it with their handheld devices. It has been used also many times as DIGI installed in UAVs. You can buy it form USA distributor http://thedigitalham.com/ .

Best Regards

Ioannis

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of CaptALord@...
Sent: Δευτέρα, 27 Νοεμβρίου 2006 8:22 μμ
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Tracker, DIGI and TNC functionality with battery

I guess my Greek is a little weak... Is this a stand alone device or a USB TNC for PCs?

Allen

KG6HXO

233. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 19:40:13 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 216 Message: 233

> Give me a few more weeks and I'll have some test
> units available with an
> integrated 6-watt transceiver, but they're not going
> to be cheap. I'm using
> commercial off-the-shelf RF boards.
>
Now you are just teasing....

I volunteer to test one :)

de John
EI7IG

Send instant messages to your online friends http://uk.messenger.yahoo.com

234. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 19:43:45 UTC
From: paul b dixon
Topic: 216 Message: 234

Please send a copy to hahrn@... she has cable mod.

Thanks
Bud Dixon
Jefferson Co. Search Dog Assoc.
www.jcsda.com

On Mon, 27 Nov 2006 11:04:33 +0000 (GMT) dcassoc@... writes:
> If you, or any other readers, are interested I have the 2006 SAR
> Conference presentation GPS/Digital Mapping. This presentation
> discusses GPS and Digital Mapping (i.e. what you can do with a map,
> a short mapping software comparison, websites for downloading
> mapping data, and a host of other discussions). If you would like a
> copy, please email me directly (dcassoc@...) BUT, this is
> a large file <20meg so I don't recommend a dial-up link.
>
> Its can be freely distributed, the author won't mind (I know as I am
> the author).
>
> Capt. David Clarke
> NJSAR-J40
> Sr. GPS/Digital Mapping Instructor-NJSAR
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: mo_fire_chief
> Date: Sunday, November 26, 2006 9:16 pm
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
>
> > I want to thank everyone who has replied to my question. our
> > search
> > group is still young(3 years) and the donations coming in is not
> > what
> > it needs to be, so we are looking at the cheap ways to get
> > things done
> > right now. the group already owns 7 alinco 196 radios, so the
> > tiny
> > trak units look to be a cheaper fix than buying the kenwoods. in
> > addition, and i don't want to start a thread on how good or bad
> > kenwoods are, but i did talk to one sar team several weeks ago
> > and they
> > did not like the kenwoods and how they held up in the
> > field.(their
> > oinion) anyway, already having those radios, i decided to try

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> > tinytraks. i will look at the other mapping programs in the
> > next
> > couple of weeks, and let everyone know what i come up with.
> > again,
> > thanks to everyone's advice
> >
> > garry
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> > --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "mo_fire_chief" wrote:
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> > > i am working on setting up tracker units for our sar teams
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> > > tinytrak3+, their gps unit, and connecting it into the teams
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> > > system so the weight issue is less. on our laptop, we run
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> > > topo6.0, and i have a kam to receive the signal at the base.
> > with
> > all
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> > > Thanks
> > > Garry
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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235. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 19:31:21 UTC
From: Steve Friis
Topic: 216 Message: 235

scott@... wrote:
>> Along the lines of this I am interested in preparing packages for
>> three functions. One is for ground searchers to send their location
>> back to the IC Post. Second is for the ground vehicles to also send
>> location back to IC Post. Third is to digipeat. This could be on the
>>
>
> I'll have more beta test kits for my new Tracker2 (the successor to the
> OpenTracker) ready in a week or so. If you don't mind some rough edges and
> incomplete documentation, it should do the job. It's a tracker and
> digipeater, and will allow field teams to see where everyone is (along with
> waypoints generated manually by the IC) on their GPS map display if they
> have one.
>
> Give me a few more weeks and I'll have some test units available with an
> integrated 6-watt transceiver, but they're not going to be cheap. I'm using
> commercial off-the-shelf RF boards.
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>

Will you let us all know? I am interested.

Z

236. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 20:28:59 UTC
From: William Daugherty
Topic: 216 Message: 236

Thanks for the heads-up Scott. I'm definitely interested in both.

William Daugherty

KX1Y

NHARES RED Team

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of scott@...
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006 10:23 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

> Along the lines of this I am interested in preparing packages for
> three functions. One is for ground searchers to send their location
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Give me a few more weeks and I'll have some test units available with an integrated 6-watt transceiver, but they're not going to be cheap. I'm using
commercial off-the-shelf RF boards.

Scott
N1VG

237. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 22:25:18 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 216 Message: 237

appears juno has a block on file size (file is 6 megs), maybe send me a mailing address and will mail CD unless you have alternate address to email to.

Capt. D. Clarke
NJSAR J40

----- Original Message -----
From: paul b dixon
Date: Monday, November 27, 2006 3:00 pm
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

> Please send a copy to hahrn@... she has cable mod.
>
> Thanks
> Bud Dixon
> Jefferson Co. Search Dog Assoc.
> www.jcsda.com
>
> On Mon, 27 Nov 2006 11:04:33 +0000 (GMT) dcassoc@... writes:
> > If you, or any other readers, are interested I have the 2006
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> map,
> > a short mapping software comparison, websites for downloading
> > mapping data, and a host of other discussions). If you would
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> > copy, please email me directly (dcassoc@...) BUT,
> this is
> > a large file <20meg so I don't recommend a dial-up link.
> >
> > Its can be freely distributed, the author won't mind (I know
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> > Capt. David Clarke
> > NJSAR-J40
> > Sr. GPS/Digital Mapping Instructor-NJSAR
> >
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> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: mo_fire_chief
> > Date: Sunday, November 26, 2006 9:16 pm
> > Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

> > To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> >
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> > Yahoo! Groups Links
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238. 2006 SAR Conference presentation GPS/Digital Mapping

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 23:28:09 UTC
From: Ed Sherlock
Topic: 238 Message: 238
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

239. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-27 23:54:31 UTC
From: Matt a
Topic: 216 Message: 239

try www.yousendit.com you can send up to 100mb if im not mistaken

----- Original Message ----
From: "dcassoc@..." <dcassoc@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006 5:25:18 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

appears juno has a block on file size (file is 6 megs), maybe send me a mailing address and will mail CD unless you have alternate address to email to.

Capt. D. Clarke
NJSAR J40

----- Original Message -----
From: paul b dixon
Date: Monday, November 27, 2006 3:00 pm
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com

> Please send a copy to hahrn@... she has cable mod.
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> Thanks
> Bud Dixon
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> On Mon, 27 Nov 2006 11:04:33 +0000 (GMT) dcassoc@optonline. net writes:
> > If you, or any other readers, are interested I have the 2006
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> > a short mapping software comparison, websites for downloading
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> > NJSAR-J40
> > Sr. GPS/Digital Mapping Instructor-NJSAR
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> >
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> > From: mo_fire_chief
> > Date: Sunday, November 26, 2006 9:16 pm
> > Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
> > To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com
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Do you Yahoo!?
Everyone is raving about the all-new Yahoo! Mail beta.
http://new.mail.yahoo.com

240. Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-28 00:07:38 UTC
From: projecthiker
Topic: 216 Message: 240

try www.yousendit.com should be able to send it that way

I would also like a copy please

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, dcassoc@... wrote:
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> appears juno has a block on file size (file is 6 megs), maybe send
me a mailing address and will mail CD unless you have alternate
address to email to.
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> Capt. D. Clarke
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> > > > --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "mo_fire_chief" wrote:
> > > > >
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> > > Yahoo! Groups Links
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241. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-28 00:14:37 UTC
From: Matt a
Topic: 216 Message: 241

i would also like a copy

----- Original Message ----
From: Matt a <projecthiker@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006 6:54:31 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

try www.yousendit. com you can send up to 100mb if im not mistaken

----- Original Message ----
From: "dcassoc@optonline. net" <dcassoc@optonline. net>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2006 5:25:18 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

appears juno has a block on file size (file is 6 megs), maybe send me a mailing address and will mail CD unless you have alternate address to email to.

Capt. D. Clarke
NJSAR J40

----- Original Message -----
From: paul b dixon
Date: Monday, November 27, 2006 3:00 pm
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com

> Please send a copy to hahrn@... she has cable mod.
>
> Thanks
> Bud Dixon
> Jefferson Co. Search Dog Assoc.
> www.jcsda.com
>
> On Mon, 27 Nov 2006 11:04:33 +0000 (GMT) dcassoc@optonline. net writes:
> > If you, or any other readers, are interested I have the 2006
> SAR
> > Conference presentation GPS/Digital Mapping. This
> presentation
> > discusses GPS and Digital Mapping (i.e. what you can do with a
> map,
> > a short mapping software comparison, websites for downloading
> > mapping data, and a host of other discussions) . If you would
> like a
> > copy, please email me directly (dcassoc@optonline. net) BUT,
> this is

> > a large file <20meg so I don't recommend a dial-up link.
> >
> > Its can be freely distributed, the author won't mind (I know
> as I am
> > the author).
> >
> > Capt. David Clarke
> > NJSAR-J40
> > Sr. GPS/Digital Mapping Instructor-NJSAR
> >
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: mo_fire_chief
> > Date: Sunday, November 26, 2006 9:16 pm
> > Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
> > To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com
> >
> > > I want to thank everyone who has replied to my question. our
> > > search
> > > group is still young(3 years) and the donations coming in is
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> > > it needs to be, so we are looking at the cheap ways to get
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Cheap Talk? Check out Yahoo! Messenger's low PC-to-Phone call rates.

Cheap talk?
Check out Yahoo! Messenger's low PC-to-Phone call rates.
http://voice.yahoo.com

242. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-28 03:15:21 UTC
From: maheil
Topic: 216 Message: 242

Since there appears to be interest, would this be something appropriate to upload to the files section for the group?

Mike Heil

On Mon, 27 Nov 2006 11:04:33 +0000 (GMT) dcassoc@optonline.
<mailto:dcassoc%40optonline.net> net writes:
> If you, or any other readers, are interested I have the 2006 SAR
> Conference presentation GPS/Digital Mapping. This presentation
> discusses GPS and Digital Mapping (i.e. what you can do with a map,
> a short mapping software comparison, websites for downloading
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<mailto:dcassoc%40optonline.net> net) BUT, this is
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> Capt. David Clarke
> NJSAR-J40
> Sr. GPS/Digital Mapping Instructor-NJSAR
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> ----- Original Message -----
> From: mo_fire_chief
> Date: Sunday, November 26, 2006 9:16 pm
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com> s.com
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> > I want to thank everyone who has replied to my question. our
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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243. Re: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-28 10:30:39 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 216 Message: 243

didn't know it would be so popular. didn't want to put too much onto the site. Its about 6 megs and can forward to you for approval first.

thanks,
Capt. D. Clarke
NJSAR J40

----- Original Message -----
From: maheil
Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2006 12:17 am
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

>
>
> Since there appears to be interest, would this be something
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> upload to the files section for the group?
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> Mike Heil
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> > Capt. David Clarke

> > NJSAR-J40
> > Sr. GPS/Digital Mapping Instructor-NJSAR
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> > From: mo_fire_chief
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> > Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
> > To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com
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> > Yahoo! Groups Links
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244. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-28 19:44:32 UTC
From: jerrysugden@netscape.net
Topic: 216 Message: 244

Add my name to the list of those interested. Use my day e-mail to send it to me. Thanks.

Jerry Sugden KC7NA
Federal Way ECRT Team Leader
FWARC VP
e-mail: kc7na@fwarc,org
day e-mail: jsugden@...
Day: (206)587-6318
Evening: (253)927-7886

-----Original Message-----
From: dcassoc@...
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tue, 28 Nov 2006 2:30 AM
Subject: Re: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

didn't know it would be so popular. didn't want to put too much onto the site. Its about 6 megs and can forward to you for approval first.

thanks,
Capt. D. Clarke
NJSAR J40

----- Original Message -----
From: maheil
Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2006 12:17 am
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

>
>
> Since there appears to be interest, would this be something
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> upload to the files section for the group?
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>
> Mike Heil
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> _____
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> On Mon, 27 Nov 2006 11:04:33 +0000 (GMT) dcassoc@optonline.
> net writes:
> > If you, or any other readers, are interested I have the 2006

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> > Capt. David Clarke
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> > Sr. GPS/Digital Mapping Instructor-NJSAR
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> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: mo_fire_chief
> > Date: Sunday, November 26, 2006 9:16 pm
> > Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
> > To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com
> >
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Check Out the new free AIM(R) Mail -- 2 GB of storage and industry-leading spam and email virus protection.

245. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-28 23:16:44 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 216 Message: 245

Jerry;
Tried sending it to you but postmaster kicked it back due to file size. If you have another address that can take a 6meg file, let me know, or you can download at http://ireland.aprs2.net/xastir/nsar2006.zip

May be a strange place to download from, but John Ronan offered to load it to their site.

Let me know how you make out, worse case- I mail the cd to you.

Stay safe,
Capt. D. Clarke
NJSAR J40

----- Original Message -----
From: jerrysugden@...
Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2006 2:48 pm
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

> Add my name to the list of those interested. Use my day e-mail
> to send it to me. Thanks.
>
> Jerry Sugden KC7NA
> Federal Way ECRT Team Leader
> FWARC VP
> e-mail: kc7na@fwarc,org
> day e-mail: jsugden@...
> Day: (206)587-6318
> Evening: (253)927-7886
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: dcassoc@...
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Tue, 28 Nov 2006 2:30 AM
> Subject: Re: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
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> Capt. D. Clarke
> NJSAR J40
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> ----- Original Message -----
> From: maheil
> Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2006 12:17 am
> Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
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> --
> Check Out the new free AIM(R) Mail -- 2 GB of storage and
> industry-leading spam and email virus protection.
>

246. Re: Tracker, DIGI and TNC functionality with battery

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-29 03:53:35 UTC
From: sbstivers2000
Topic: 216 Message: 246

I would like to introduce myself. I am Steve Stivers and I own "The Digital HAM". While I do not have a great deal of SAR knowledge I can answer questions you might have about the Elcom uTNT products.

I use one with my Yeasu VX7R. It can be powered with the internal battery or an external power source(11-14v). While it is connected to a PC via USB it gets power from the PC and can recharge the internal battery.

The unit is connected to a PC to be configured then it can be unplugged and used as a stand alone tracker with your GPS and radio.

Steve Stivers
KI4KGO
http://thedigitalham.com

247. Re: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-11-29 06:16:32 UTC
From: Michael A Heil
Topic: 216 Message: 247

It seems there is enough interest, so I am OK if you are willing to upload the file. We can always remove it in the future if we need space.

Mike

dcassoc@... wrote:
didn't know it would be so popular. didn't want to put too much onto the site. Its about 6 megs and can forward to you for approval first.

thanks,
Capt. D. Clarke
NJSAR J40

----- Original Message -----
From: maheil
Date: Tuesday, November 28, 2006 12:17 am
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
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> >
> > Capt. David Clarke
> > NJSAR-J40
> > Sr. GPS/Digital Mapping Instructor-NJSAR
> >
> >
> > ----- Original Message -----
> > From: mo_fire_chief
> > Date: Sunday, November 26, 2006 9:16 pm
> > Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: what else do i need?
> > To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com
> >
> > > I want to thank everyone who has replied to my question. our
> > > search
> > > group is still young(3 years) and the donations coming in is
> not
> > > what
> > > it needs to be, so we are looking at the cheap ways to get
> > > things done
> > > right now. the group already owns 7 alinco 196 radios, so
> the
> > > tiny
> > > trak units look to be a cheaper fix than buying the
> kenwoods. in
> > > addition, and i don't want to start a thread on how good or
> bad
> > > kenwoods are, but i did talk to one sar team several weeks
> ago
> > > and they
> > > did not like the kenwoods and how they held up in the
> > > field.(their
> > > oinion) anyway, already having those radios, i decided to
> try
> > > the
> > > tinytraks. i will look at the other mapping programs in the
> > > next
> > > couple of weeks, and let everyone know what i come up with.
> > > again,
> > > thanks to everyone's advice
> > >
> > > garry
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >
> > >

> > >
> > > --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroup
> s.com,
> "mo_fire_chief" wrote:
> > > >
> > > > i am working on setting up tracker units for our sar teams
> > > using a
> > > > tinytrak3+, their gps unit, and connecting it into the
> teams
> > > radio
> > > > system so the weight issue is less. on our laptop, we run
> > > delourme
> > > > topo6.0, and i have a kam to receive the signal at the
> base.
> > > with
> > > all
> > > > of this, what else do i need to be able to track the teams
> as
> > > they
> > > > move, as in software or hardware?
> > > >
> > > > Thanks
> > > > Garry
> > > >
> > >
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> > Yahoo! Groups Links
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248. Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 02:50:52 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 248 Message: 248

Gentlemen,

I am working on the initial firmware programming for the new Micro-Trak 8 channel transmitter. Besides 144.390 and 144.800, are there any frequencies that I should include? (these might also include foxhunting frequencies if there are not enough APRS freq's around) I can program in anything from 144 to 147 Mhz.

Allen
VHS Products
KG6HXO

249. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 03:15:36 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 248 Message: 249
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

250. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 04:23:08 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 248 Message: 250

Roger!

Allen

251. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 04:29:41 UTC
From: Jeff Moore
Topic: 248 Message: 251

If you could make it freq programmable, that would probably be the most flexible option for everyone.

Jeff Moore
KE7ACY
Bend, Oregon

----- Original Message -----
From: CaptALord@...
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2006 6:50 PM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Gentlemen,

I am working on the initial firmware programming for the new Micro-Trak 8 channel transmitter. Besides 144.390 and 144.800, are there any frequencies that I should include? (these might also include foxhunting frequencies if there are not enough APRS freq's around) I can program in anything from 144 to 147 Mhz.

Allen
VHS Products
KG6HXO

252. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 04:42:05 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 248 Message: 252

Jeff,

We are developing a piece of programming software, but I don't want not having it ready to be an impediment to release of the new product.

73
Allen
KG6HXO

253. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 04:52:19 UTC
From: Stan
Topic: 248 Message: 253

Wasn't there an APRS alternate input of 144.990?

Stan/KC7EHJ

CaptALord@... wrote:
>
>
> Gentlemen,
>
> I am working on the initial firmware programming for the new Micro-Trak
> 8 channel transmitter. Besides 144.390 and 144.800, are there any
> frequencies that I should include? (these might also include foxhunting
> frequencies if there are not enough APRS freq's around) I can program in
> anything from 144 to 147 Mhz.
>
> Allen
> VHS Products
> KG6HXO
>
>

254. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 04:40:54 UTC
From: Steve Friis
Topic: 248 Message: 254

139.990, the repeater offset, and used as low power/SAR freq. in some locations.

255. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 11:57:58 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 248 Message: 255

My transmitter won't go that far out of band. I can only go from 144-147 (roughly) without losing synthesizer lock.

73
Allen
KG6HXO

256. RE: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 14:13:56 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 248 Message: 256

> 144.350 - Puget Sound low power APRS network

.35 or .34?

Just kibitzing from afar, I would have assumed that 144.34 was
it becasuse that is what all of the original pocket-trackers
came on. And that was because that is the NATIONAL ATV balloon
beacon frequency. It made sense for them to make a pocket
tracker on that frequency since it makes a GREAT balloon
payload. But the last thing we want is a constant presence on
144.34 for non-ballooon or ATV releated noises.

I lobbied the Pocket Tracker folks to change their alternate
frqeuency to the APRS alt-input of 144.99. SO we must all
respect the national 144.34 ATV balloon and back-channel voice
frequency which was in use long befoe APRS came along.
Again, nothing wrong with one-time experiments such as a
balloons on 144.34, but any routine use of that frequency for
anything other than ATV is kinda not fair to the ATV folks....

Bob, WB4APR

> Tom, KD7LXL
>
>
> On 11/30/06, CaptALord@... < CaptALord@...
> <mailto:CaptALord@...> > wrote:
>
>
> Gentlemen,
>
> I am working on the initial firmware programming for
> the new Micro-Trak 8 channel transmitter. Besides 144.390 and
> 144.800, are there any frequencies that I should include?
> (these might also include foxhunting frequencies if there are
> not enough APRS freq's around) I can program in anything from
> 144 to 147 Mhz.
>
> Allen
> VHS Products
> KG6HXO
>
>
>
>
>

>

257. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 14:15:37 UTC
From: Steve Friis
Topic: 248 Message: 257

Steve Friis wrote:
> 139.990, the repeater offset, and used as low power/SAR freq. in some
> locations.
I meant to say 144.990.

Z

258. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 14:45:24 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 248 Message: 258

Steve,

No problem, I thought you must have a pretty special SAR group to be using a Federal frequency! :)

73
Allen
KG6HXO

259. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 17:33:38 UTC
From: VA7OTC JD Erskine
Topic: 248 Message: 259

--- CaptALord@... wrote:

> Gentlemen,
>
> I am working on the initial firmware programming for
> the new Micro-Trak 8
> channel transmitter. Besides 144.390 and 144.800,
> are there any frequencies that
> I should include? (these might also include
> foxhunting frequencies if there
> are not enough APRS freq's around) I can program in
> anything from 144 to 147
> Mhz.
>
> Allen
> VHS Products
> KG6HXO

Indeed, as req and secondary to APRS, the common ARDF
2m freq in use in NA is 146.565 MHz.

Tnx es 73, John

VA7OTC VE0JD/mm
Victoria, BC

_____
Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

260. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-01 20:46:46 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 248 Message: 260

John

Thanks! I need to find out if I can put in both 10 and 15 KHz channel steps into the synthesizer. At least this will give me a chance to help out those "poor Australians" who can't get gear on their freqs too!

Allen

261. MIcro-Trak 300 New, Lower Cost Version

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-05 01:22:18 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 261 Message: 261

VHS and Byonics are pleased to offer the new Micro-Trak 300, version 1.3. Version 1.3 has improved features, including higher power efficiency, greater ease of interface, and is significantly less expensive than the Micro-Trak 1.1 at only $95.00! This 1/3 watt, 2 meter transmitter is available on 144.390 and uses the TinyTrak 3 PIC controller.

The new MT-300 is sold as an easy to assemble kit. No tuning or adjustments are required. Just solder on the parts, provide power, a GPS input, and an antenna output, and you are ready to track! The input connections may be made by soldering directly to PC board, but a DB9 connector is designed to slide over the board for those of you who don't mind the added weight. The Micro-Trak 300 measures 1 X 3 inches and weighs less than half an ounce! A manual will be available for download on the Byonics website (www.byonics.com)

262. Re: [SAR_APRS] MIcro-Trak 300 New, Lower Cost Version

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-05 01:41:02 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 261 Message: 262

My apologies, I meant to send that last post to the TinyTrak group.

73
Allen
KG6HXO

263. Re: [SAR_APRS] MIcro-Trak 300 New, Lower Cost Version

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-05 02:17:01 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 261 Message: 263
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

264. Re: [SAR_APRS] MIcro-Trak 300 New, Lower Cost Version

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-05 02:50:29 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 261 Message: 264

Tom,

You can see a picture of it at: _www.byonics.com/microtrak300_ (http://www.byonics.com/microtrak300) . The new unit uses two surface mount parts, the 5 volt, 500 mA , DPAK, voltage regulator, and a 10 uF capacitor. The rest is through hole. The board is still only 1 X 3 inches though, but the voltage regulator is quite a bit lighter than a VReg. with a TO-220 case. It will still provide several hundred mils for an external GPS unit.

73
Allen
KG6HXO

265. RE: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-11 21:47:02 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 248 Message: 265

> [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of
CaptALord@...
>
> I am working on the initial firmware programming for the new
> Micro-Trak 8 channel transmitter. Besides 144.390 and
> 144.800, are there any frequencies that I should include?

The APRS Satellite Frequency. 145.825 MHz.
About 5 watts will get into the satellite.

Bob, WB4APR

266. RE: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-11 23:50:41 UTC
From: Bob Wagner
Topic: 248 Message: 266

We use 144.34, and a lot of the high altitude balloons use it.

Bob Wagner

Alpine Rescue Team

_____

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Robert Bruninga
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2006 2:47 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Cc: CaptALord@...
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

> [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroup <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com> s.com] On Behalf Of
CaptALord@aol. <mailto:CaptALord%40aol.com> com
>
> I am working on the initial firmware programming for the new
> Micro-Trak 8 channel transmitter. Besides 144.390 and
> 144.800, are there any frequencies that I should include?

The APRS Satellite Frequency. 145.825 MHz.
About 5 watts will get into the satellite.

Bob, WB4APR

267. Re: [SAR_APRS] Need Frequency input

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-12 02:16:26 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 248 Message: 267

Roger that. 144.340 seems to be a popular request. So far that looks like it is going to be channel 1, the lowest APRS freq anyone has asked about.

Thanks!

Allen
KG6HXO
Yosemite 222

268. Mico-Trak programmable-frequency requests

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-12 02:52:59 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 268 Message: 268

I thought you may want to see a synopsis of APRS frequency requests:

144.340 Seattle, other low power users, many requests.

144.350 Puget Sound

144.390 'Nuff said
144.800 Europe, many requests
144.825 Italy
145.175 Australia
145.825 Satellite Channel
146.100 Swedish DOD SAR frequency

Allen
VHS
KG6HXO
Yosemite 222

269. Re: Mico-Trak programmable-frequency requests

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-14 14:00:46 UTC
From: Francisco Diaz
Topic: 268 Message: 269

Hi,

One frequency you should keep also in mind is the 144.990 for low power operations as suggested by Bob Bruninga in his article "Fixing the 144.390 APRS Network.

Also if Europe has a similar low power frequency, that is another frequency that you should keep in mind when determine what frequencies you will put in the new Micro-Trak 300.

I know that we have suggested more frequencies than the frequency channels that you can put, so I think will be a very hard thing to make the decisions of what frequencies to keep. Good luck there...

Francisco
NP3OD

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, CaptALord@... wrote:
>
> I thought you may want to see a synopsis of APRS frequency requests:
>
> 144.340 Seattle, other low power users, many requests.
>
> 144.350 Puget Sound
>
> 144.390 'Nuff said
> 144.800 Europe, many requests
> 144.825 Italy
> 145.175 Australia
> 145.825 Satellite Channel
> 146.100 Swedish DOD SAR frequency
>
> Allen
> VHS
> KG6HXO
> Yosemite 222
>

270. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Mico-Trak programmable-frequency requests

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-14 16:26:49 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 268 Message: 270

Francisco, et al,

Thanks, I completely forgot about 144.990! It will definitely be in the initial programming. The frequency agile Micro-Trak will be able to accept any 8 channels from 144-to about 147 Mhz, in either 10 or 25 Khz steps, so if I leave something out, we can just plug the unit into a PC, and program the new frequency. I have not heard from anyone about low-power or SAR-specific APRS frequencies in Europe. Any EUSAR people out there?

Allen
VHS

271. APRS on 6 meters

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-15 20:49:36 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 271 Message: 271

Is anyone using 6 meters for APRS-SAR work? What if any freq's are in use?

Allen
KG6HXO

272. 5V from KPC-3+

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-17 01:20:57 UTC
From: ssobods
Topic: 272 Message: 272

Has anyone used the 5V inside the KPC-3 to power their GPS? The GPS only draws 80mA and it would save from putting another regulator in the package.

Steve
KN6UX

273. RE: [SAR_APRS] 5V from KPC-3+

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-17 01:59:02 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 272 Message: 273

My question would be, why use the KPC-3 at all? It's not a very good tracker. There are several other options that'll give you plenty of regulated 5 volts and result in much more compact position packets than what the KPC-3 can provide. Unless you're running it with a laptop, anyway.

And no, I haven't tried using the 5 volt output. I've used the unregulated output to power other devices at 12 volts, though.

Scott
N1VG

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ssobods
> Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2006 5:21 PM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] 5V from KPC-3+
>
> Has anyone used the 5V inside the KPC-3 to power their GPS? The GPS
> only draws 80mA and it would save from putting another regulator in
> the package.
>
> Steve
> KN6UX
>
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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274. Re: [SAR_APRS] 5V from KPC-3+

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-17 03:16:47 UTC
From: Bob Bruninga
Topic: 272 Message: 274

> Has anyone used the 5V inside the KPC-3 to power
> their GPS? The GPS only draws 80mA...

I use the 5v inside to power evreything in our little LABsats. But then we do not power all that much except some telemetry circuits. But since students use these, I can attest to the fact that you can short the 5v rail to ground and not blow the regulator or anything.

But the regulator has to dispiate that 80 mA drop from the external source and if that is 13.8v then that puts 8.8v across the regulator at 80 mA is .7 watts or so which I would say is too much for the regulator.

Now if you put a 6 ohm 1 watt droping resistor from the 13.8v to the TNC, then most of that power will be disipated in the resistor and the internal regulator should work OK as long as it is getting at least 7 volts after the resistor while also driving the GPS. Choose the resistor to give you that minimum 7 volts with the engine off and GPS on.

ob, Wb4APR

275. Re: [SAR_APRS] 5V from KPC-3+

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-17 03:27:44 UTC
From: Bob Bruninga
Topic: 272 Message: 275

> Has anyone used the 5V inside the KPC-3 to power
> their GPS? The GPS only draws 80mA...

I meant to add this link:
http://www.ew.usna.edu/~bruninga/labsats.html
about half way down the page "see details of the TNC MODS".
It shows how I add a few jumpers to bring out all kinds of useful I/O's out of the KPC-3+ on the DB-25 connector including:

5 Analog telemetry inputs
2 ON/OFF controls (CTR A and CTR B)
- the CONNECTED line
- the CD line
- 5 volts
- the LEDS-ON line

Using those is how we build our satellites using nothing but a KPC-3 since it gives a total of 4 ON/OFF remote controls and the 5 channels of telemetry. You can even use the flashing MAIL-FOR LED as a 5th remote controllable signal.

---original message -------
I use the 5v inside to power evreything in our little LABsats. But then we do not power all that much except some telemetry circuits. But since students use these, I can attest to the fact that you can short the 5v rail to ground and not blow the regulator or anything.

But the regulator has to dispiate that 80 mA drop from the external source and if that is 13.8v then that puts 8.8v across the regulator at 80 mA is .7 watts or so which I would say is too much for the regulator.

Now if you put a 6 ohm 1 watt droping resistor from the 13.8v to the TNC, then most of that power will be disipated in the resistor and the internal regulator should work OK as long as it is getting at least 7 volts after the resistor while also driving the GPS. Choose the resistor to give you that minimum 7 volts with the engine off and GPS on.

Bob, Wb4APR

276. Re: 5V from KPC-3+

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-17 03:55:02 UTC
From: ssobods
Topic: 272 Message: 276

The KPC-3+ is for vehicles that are to be used for vehicle trackers
that will also be Digipeaters. Among the features I also needed was
the ability to remote control settings over the air. In the future
we will probably go with a TinyTrack4 or your Tracker2. Kantronics
is still living in the past (descrete components) and soon will not
be able to give them away.

Steve
KN6UX

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Scott Miller" <scott@...> wrote:
>
> My question would be, why use the KPC-3 at all? It's not a very
good
> tracker. There are several other options that'll give you plenty
of
> regulated 5 volts and result in much more compact position packets
than what
> the KPC-3 can provide. Unless you're running it with a laptop,
anyway.
>
> And no, I haven't tried using the 5 volt output. I've used the
unregulated
> output to power other devices at 12 volts, though.
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>
> > -----Original Message-----
> > From: SAR_APRS@...m
> > [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ssobods
> > Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2006 5:21 PM
> > To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> > Subject: [SAR_APRS] 5V from KPC-3+
> >
> > Has anyone used the 5V inside the KPC-3 to power their GPS? The
GPS
> > only draws 80mA and it would save from putting another regulator
in
> > the package.
> >
> > Steve
> > KN6UX
> >
> >

> >
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> > Yahoo! Groups Links
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277. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: 5V from KPC-3+

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-17 16:04:54 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 272 Message: 277

> Kantronics is still living in the past (descrete components)
> and soon will not be able to give them away.

But anything that does a job and is reliable and is well understood (in the tens of thousands) is a good investment in my book. And with discrete components I can fix, modify or repair it easily. I could care less what it is made of as long as it does the job.

I can rake my yard with a rake faster than with a leaf blower and without all the fuss of cords or noise or gasline. I can drill a hole anywhre anytime with my dad's hand drill (now in my tool box) without any cords or access to AC power or dead batteries.

I can trim my garden with my $6 hand sicle without any noise or fuss and extension cords or gas.

I am not a believer in newer-is-better just simply because something is newer. My statements have nothing to do with KPC-3's versus anything else. It is a comment only on the statement that there is something "wrong" with discrete components and old things. Some old things work very well, and in fact work much better than newer things. Be careful not to be fooled by modern marketing that tries to sell you something new every year just so they can keep sales up. Again, my $6 hand sicle is still working through 2 generations (my family has had it for 40 years) and that sure works better than, what, ten $70 weed-wackers over the same period?

Again, this has NOTHING to do with APRS and KPC3's and trackers. I fully endorse all the trackers out there for the functions they perform, and for some functions, smaller and better is better for the specific mission they are designed to do.

Bob

278. RE: [SAR_APRS] 5V from KPC-3+

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-17 17:50:03 UTC
From: Bob Wagner
Topic: 272 Message: 278

I have used it for both Garmin etrex and the Deluo. It works but it gets hot. I made a heat sink from some aluminum and made it so it was glued to the 5v IC reg, and reaches over to the case where I put some heat sink grease between the heat sink and the case. So far it works ok, but we are normally out where it is cool so outside air temp helps. Not sure if I would do it where it gets very hot out.

Bob Wagner

Alpine Rescue Team

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ssobods
Sent: Saturday, December 16, 2006 6:21 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] 5V from KPC-3+

Has anyone used the 5V inside the KPC-3 to power their GPS? The GPS only draws 80mA and it would save from putting another regulator in the package.

Steve
KN6UX

279. RE: [SAR_APRS] 5V from KPC-3+

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-17 19:36:06 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 272 Message: 279

> I have used it for both Garmin etrex and the Deluo. It works
> but it gets hot. I made a heat sink from some aluminum and
> made it so it was glued to the 5v IC reg, and reaches over to
> the case where I put some heat sink grease between the heat
> sink and the case. So far it works ok...

That works well. But sometimes an easier method is this:

Move the heat away from the regulator by inserting a series resistor between the 13.8v and the TNC/GPS so that some or most of the heat is dissipated there. Calculate the value of the resistor as follows:
The regulator needs 7 volts going into the regulator when the vehicle voltage drops to 12 volts (not 13.8). So the resistor needs to drop no more than 5 volts. So measure the current drawn by the TNC and GPS, call that I. Now then R = 5/I. This way the resistor is dropping 5 volts and the regulator is only dropping 2 volts. This puts 75% of the waste heat into the resistor instead of the regulator. Make sure the resistor is a 1 Watt resistor or so.

Bob

280. Re: 5V from KPC-3+

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-17 19:47:57 UTC
From: ssobods
Topic: 272 Message: 280

My point on the descrete component issue is two fold:
1. Cost, I've been in manufacturing for years and it is costly to build thru hole descrete designs. As the cost for TNC's get into the $50 range, it will not be cost effective to even try and repair TNC's.

2. Flexibility, the software/CPU TNC concept allows for much quicker response to bug fixes and new ideas such as pre-emptive digi. Kantronics changes firmware very seldom and charges about $60 when they do. When PC's need a upgraded BIOS, we download them from the Internet and up-load them into the PC at no cost.

Despite the above, I do belive in a proven product which the KPC-3+ is. I have been using them for years. I avoid the version 1.0 of anything and especially something that could effect the safety of my SAR group in the field. I just wish Kantronics would start moving forward with a smaller, cheaper and more flexible design before they get left behind.

Steve

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Robert Bruninga" <wb4apr@...>
wrote:
>
> > Kantronics is still living in the past (descrete components)
> > and soon will not be able to give them away.
>
> But anything that does a job and is reliable and is well
> understood (in the tens of thousands) is a good investment in my
> book. And with discrete components I can fix, modify or repair
> it easily. I could care less what it is made of as long as it
> does the job.
>
> I can rake my yard with a rake faster than with a leaf blower
> and without all the fuss of cords or noise or gasline. I can
> drill a hole anywhre anytime with my dad's hand drill (now in my
> tool box) without any cords or access to AC power or dead
> batteries.
>
> I can trim my garden with my $6 hand sicle without any noise or
> fuss and extension cords or gas.
>
> I am not a believer in newer-is-better just simply because
> something is newer. My statements have nothing to do with
> KPC-3's versus anything else. It is a comment only on the
> statement that there is something "wrong" with discrete

> components and old things. Some old things work very well, and
> in fact work much better than newer things. Be careful not to
> be fooled by modern marketing that tries to sell you something
> new every year just so they can keep sales up. Again, my $6
> hand sicle is still working through 2 generations (my family has
> had it for 40 years) and that sure works better than, what, ten
> $70 weed-wackers over the same period?
>
> Again, this has NOTHING to do with APRS and KPC3's and trackers.
> I fully endorse all the trackers out there for the functions
> they perform, and for some functions, smaller and better is
> better for the specific mission they are designed to do.
>
> Bob
>

281. Software COM splitter for NMEA

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-19 08:56:09 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 281 Message: 281
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

282. Re: [SAR_APRS] Software COM splitter for NMEA

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2006-12-19 12:38:51 UTC
From: Peter Devanney
Topic: 281 Message: 282

Try GPSGate from Franson. It is reasonably priced for the functionality and reliability.

http://franson.com/gpsgate/

I run UI-View, Search HQ, Delorme SA 2007, Memory Map Topo and OziExplorer on my Tablet PC and can do all at the same time if required.

73

Peter
VA3YOW

----- Original Message -----
From: Tom Hayward
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, December 19, 2006 3:56 AM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Software COM splitter for NMEA

During searches, I typically run some sort of mapping software (DeLorme Street Atlas for urban, Maptech TNP for wilderness) on my laptop in my Jeep. I want to run UI-View (with AGWPE sound-card TNC) simultaneously with one of these mapping applications, but once I open the GPS port with one program, the other program cannot access the port. The GPS can only output NMEA (one-way), so it seems port conflicts wouldn't be an issue--Windows seems to think they are.

I'm looking for some free software to split this signal to multiple emulated ports. I've found plenty of expensive software that will do it, but no freeware. Seems simple enough to be free. Does anyone on the list have experience with this? Any software recommendations?

73,

Tom Hayward, KD7LXL

283. RE: [Kenwood_TH-D7] TH-D7 Power up problem

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-01-01 23:26:22 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 211 Message: 283

Since I did not get any responses to my original post, I finally got around to opening up this radio to see if it was anything obvious. I could not see anything obvious and to take the bottom PC board off, I would have to unsolder some shielding. Am not willing to go that far at the moment unless our county DEM authorizes it first.

From what I have figured out so far is that the problem appears to be part of the disconnect tab inside the external power connector. It appears this disconnect remains in the disconnected position with an external power connector connected or not. Connecting external power to the external power connector does put 12 volts to the normal battery tabs on the back of the radio. This is the normal charging voltage for the battery, so it appears that I would need to replace the external power connector.

Has anyone ever had this connector fail? Has anyone ever replaced it? Where did you purchase the replacement connector? How difficult of a job is it to replace this power connector? Has anyone ever sent their radio to Kenwood to have this connector replaced? If so, what did they charge for the repairs.

I am looking for answers to these questions so that I can better discuss the next COA with my local DEM.

Thanks,

Herb

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Kenwood_TH-D7@yahoogroups.com
> [mailto:Kenwood_TH-D7@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of Herb Gerhardt
> Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2006 5:01 PM
> To: Kenwood_TH-D7@yahoogroups.com
> Cc: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com; TAPR APRS Mailing List
> Subject: RE: [Kenwood_TH-D7] TH-D7 Power up problem
>
>
> Our county recently tried to use their TH-D7 SAR tracker I set up for them
> several years ago and they could not make it work. I did my darnedest to
> try to talk them through all the possible problems. I did not
> succeed. So,
> I now have the entire tracker here at my house for troubleshooting.
>
> Here is what I discovered so far:
>
>
> 1. Even with a good fully charged battery attached, it will

> not power up.
> I bent the radio contacts out some more but that did not help.
>
> 2. With 12+ V attached to the external plug, I can read
> voltage (11.6 V,
> which is normal since a diode is involved) on the normal battery
> connection
> terminals.
>
> 3. The external battery pack cable that I made for them years
> ago, causes
> intermittent connection to the radio. It does the same when
> connected to my
> radio. I built a new cable using the power connectors I bought
> from Mouser
> and those are also too loose and work intermittently. This
> looseness/intermittent connection was experienced on both the county's SAR
> TH-D7 and my personal TH-D7 radio.
>
> 4. I supplied external power to the normal radio battery
> terminals on the
> SAR TH-D7 and it will NOT power up. Applying the same power to
> the battery
> terminals on my radio makes mine work just fine.
>
> So, it appears that there is a problem between the normal battery
> terminals
> on the back of the DEM radio to the circuit board inside the radio. Joy,
> joy..... I have never seen or heard of such a problem. Is there anyone
> that has seen this problem before? If so, what did you do to fix it?
>
> My late elk hunting season starts tomorrow, so this radio problem
> will have
> to wait till after my hunting season. Any inputs in the mean
> time would be
> appreciated.
>
> The unfortunate part of this problem is that this is the first time that
> they really tried to use this TH-D7 tracker during an actual search. Sure
> would have been nice if it had worked. I have been trying for
> years to get
> them to use this tracker during an actual search and now when they finally
> tried it, it would not work. It worked just fine about a year ago when I
> checked it out. As far as I know, no one has used it since then.
>
> Herb, KB7UVC
> Mason County ARES/RACES ex-President & APRS Coordinator
>
> Mason County ComVan: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-1
> Mason County Relay Truck: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-2

> Mason County EOC: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-3
> Mason County Foot Tracker: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-6
>

284. RE: [SAR_APRS] RE: [Kenwood_TH-D7] TH-D7 Power up problem

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-01-02 04:41:43 UTC
From: Gary Newlin
Topic: 211 Message: 284
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Herb,

More than likely the solder joints in the external power jack, or the jack itself, have failed. The damage to the cable connector make this almost a certainty. I have long held that these coaxial power jacks are not "survivable" enough to be used on any mission-critical equipment. All it takes is one good whack to the end of that long protruding plug body, and the equipment is toast. As all power from not only external sources, but from the battery as well pass through this connector it will need to be replaced.

I _NEVER_ use coaxial power jacks/plugs in the field.

The jack will almost certainly be an SMT device, rather than a through-hole part. While I expect that you can order it from Kenwood, only you know if you have the tools/skills to do the repair yourself. SMT requires different tools/skills than through-the-board assembly. Another potential problem is the chance that one or more solder pads could be lifted off of the board. If this is the case, a DIY repair would require epoxying the new part to the board and jumper wiring the tabs on the part to the existing circuitry. If you were to send the radio to Kenwood, they would install a new board, and if needed re-calibrate the radio. I would expect the bill would be around $150-200USD.

Now to prevent this from happening again in the future, use one of these to provide power to the radio.

http://www.batteriesamerica.com/kenwood1.htm

CBE-39 Battery Eliminator $29.00USD

Cut off the cigar plug (and the coiled cord if need be.) and wire it up to your existing harness with an inline fuseholder.

Gary N6MZX

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Herb Gerhardt
Sent: Monday, January 01, 2007 15:26
To: Kenwood_TH-D7@yahoogroups.com
Cc: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com; TAPR APRS Mailing List
Subject: [SAR_APRS] RE: [Kenwood_TH-D7] TH-D7 Power up problem

Since I did not get any responses to my original post, I finally got around to opening up this radio to see if it was anything obvious. I could not see

anything obvious and to take the bottom PC board off, I would have to unsolder some shielding. Am not willing to go that far at the moment unless our county DEM authorizes it first.

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I am looking for answers to these questions so that I can better discuss the next COA with my local DEM.

Thanks,

Herb

> -----Original Message-----
> From: Kenwood_TH-D7@ <mailto:Kenwood_TH-D7%40yahoogroups.com>
yahoogroups.com
> [mailto:Kenwood_TH-D7@ <mailto:Kenwood_TH-D7%40yahoogroups.com>
yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of Herb Gerhardt
> Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2006 5:01 PM
> To: Kenwood_TH-D7@ <mailto:Kenwood_TH-D7%40yahoogroups.com>
yahoogroups.com
> Cc: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com> s.com; TAPR
APRS Mailing List
> Subject: RE: [Kenwood_TH-D7] TH-D7 Power up problem
>
>
> Our county recently tried to use their TH-D7 SAR tracker I set up for them
> several years ago and they could not make it work. I did my darnedest to
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> terminals.
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> 3. The external battery pack cable that I made for them years
> ago, causes
> intermittent connection to the radio. It does the same when
> connected to my
> radio. I built a new cable using the power connectors I bought
> from Mouser
> and those are also too loose and work intermittently. This
> looseness/intermittent connection was experienced on both the county's SAR
> TH-D7 and my personal TH-D7 radio.
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> terminals on the
> SAR TH-D7 and it will NOT power up. Applying the same power to
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> years to get
> them to use this tracker during an actual search and now when they finally
> tried it, it would not work. It worked just fine about a year ago when I
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<http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-2> com/KB7UVC-2
> Mason County EOC: http://map.findu. <http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-3>
com/KB7UVC-3

> Mason County Foot Tracker: http://map.findu.
<http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-6> com/KB7UVC-6
>

285. RE: [SAR_APRS] RE: [Kenwood_TH-D7] TH-D7 Power up problem

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-01-05 07:24:12 UTC
From: VA7OTC JD Erskine
Topic: 211 Message: 285
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

286. Fw: [RocketsNW] GPS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-01-06 07:38:11 UTC
From: Jeff Moore
Topic: 286 Message: 286

This item was posted on another list -- The Garmin Astro 220 (w/ DC 20 tracking module). Specifically for tracking dogs but could also be used to track searchers and/or other assets via GMRS frequencies.

-- Jeff -- KE7ACY --
Bend, Oregon

----- Original Message -----

An interesting new Garmin product meant for dog tracking. Didn't follow up on the tech specs or $, it's a horrible Flash site.

http://www.garmin.com/astro/

287. Re: [SAR_APRS] Garmin Astro 220

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-01-06 08:19:55 UTC
From: Gary Newlin
Topic: 287 Message: 287

Astro doesn't look to involve FRS/GMRS (UHF).

The collar appears to have a 5 watt MURS VHF transmitter, and the handset appears to be a GPSMAP-60CSx with a MURS receiver.

(Multi-use Radio Service)

I believe that one-way telemetry is legal on MURS, but I don't think it is on FRS/GMRS.

The handset has no transmit capability.

The dog transmitter has a Lithium-ion rechargeable battery that is good for 17 hours on a charge. Hopefully it can be replaced with a charged spare in the field, but I suspect that it isn't. It can be set to send a data packet at intervals from 5 sec to I think 3 or 5 minutes.

Multiple transmitters can be tracked simultaineously.

Should perform quite a bit better than FRS/GMRS out in the hills.

Gary N6MZX

----- Original Message -----
From: "Jeff Moore" <tnetcenter@...>
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2007 23:38
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Fw: [RocketsNW] GPS

> This item was posted on another list -- The Garmin Astro 220 (w/ DC 20
> tracking module). Specifically for tracking dogs but could also be used to
> track searchers and/or other assets via GMRS frequencies.
>
> -- Jeff -- KE7ACY --
> Bend, Oregon
>
> ----- Original Message -----
>
> An interesting new Garmin product meant for dog tracking. Didn't follow
> up on the tech specs or $, it's a horrible Flash site.
>
> http://www.garmin.com/astro/
>
>
>
>
>

> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

288. Re: Garmin Astro 220

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-01-06 16:35:30 UTC
From: David Wild
Topic: 287 Message: 288

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Gary Newlin" <n6mzx@...> wrote:
>
> Astro doesn't look to involve FRS/GMRS (UHF).
>
> The collar appears to have a 5 watt MURS VHF transmitter, and the
handset
> appears to be a GPSMAP-60CSx with a MURS receiver.
>
> (Multi-use Radio Service)
>

The MURS rules only allow 2W Transmitter Power Output, so if it's 5W it can't be MURS - maybe it is just 2W. I checked the FCC database though and I don't see any equipment certifications for Garmin on VHF in the last 8 years. Anyone else have any information on this?

289. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: Garmin Astro 220

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-01-06 17:11:50 UTC
From: Gary Newlin
Topic: 287 Message: 289

You're right David, my bad. MURS is definitely 2W max.

Those antennas are kinda long for UHF, but appear to be right for VHF.

Definitely not the standard Rino FRS antennas.

Time will tell. I love a mystery!

Gary N6MZX

_____

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of David Wild
Sent: Saturday, January 06, 2007 08:36
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: Garmin Astro 220

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroup <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com> s.com, "Gary Newlin" <n6mzx@...> wrote:
>
> Astro doesn't look to involve FRS/GMRS (UHF).
>
> The collar appears to have a 5 watt MURS VHF transmitter, and the handset
> appears to be a GPSMAP-60CSx with a MURS receiver.
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> (Multi-use Radio Service)
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The MURS rules only allow 2W Transmitter Power Output, so if it's 5W it can't be MURS - maybe it is just 2W. I checked the FCC database though and I don't see any equipment certifications for Garmin on VHF in the last 8 years. Anyone else have any information on this?

290. Meeting 1/29/07

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-01-29 16:34:18 UTC
From: Kevin Ives
Topic: 290 Message: 290

Reminder of the ACS meeting tonight. Please bring your ID card with you. We are planning to issue new cards tonight and you will need to turn in your old card.

Kevin

291. Ignore

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-01-29 16:40:08 UTC
From: Kevin Ives
Topic: 291 Message: 291

Please ignore the previous message. I posted to the wrong group.

Kevin

292. xastir : xastir-development

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-02-01 17:23:52 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 292 Message: 292

This is a test posting: We tend to put out development snapshots of
Xastir about twice a month, full releases 2 to 4 times a year. If a
twice-a-month posting is too much here then I'll just post when we
do each full release. I figure once every two weeks will at least
remind us that we have a list here to use!

BTW: Xastir is an open-source package and is free for the download,
so this is _not_ a commercial posting by any means. --we7u

Project: XASTIR (xastir)
Package: xastir-development
Date : 2007-02-01 06:17

Project "XASTIR" ('xastir') has released the new version of package
'xastir-development'. You can download it from SourceForge.net by following
this link:
<https://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=45562&release_id=463900>
or browse Release Notes and ChangeLog by visiting this link:
<https://sourceforge.net/project/shownotes.php?release_id=463900>

The SuSE Linux and LSB binaries have been updated to this latest
version as well.

Homepage: <http://www.xastir.org>

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

293. xastir : xastir-development

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-02-16 15:58:06 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 292 Message: 293

```
Project: XASTIR (xastir)
Package: xastir-development
Date : 2007-02-15 13:44

Project "XASTIR" ('xastir') has released the new version of package
'xastir-development'. You can download it from SourceForge.net by
following
this link:
<https://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=45562&release_id=463900>
or browse Release Notes and ChangeLog by visiting this link:
<https://sourceforge.net/project/shownotes.php?release_id=463900>

Homepage: <http://www.xastir.org

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
```

294. No more development snapshot release notices

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-02-21 15:42:25 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 294 Message: 294

On second thought, I'm _not_ going to send release notices for
Xastir development snapshots here anymore. Anyone interested in
seeing those knows where to find them.

I will however send "stable" release notices here. These typically
occur 2 to 4 times a year, plus each new version has a hefty number
of new features and bug-fixes. I just don't want this list to turn
into a wasteland because of perceived spam. Not that I've received
any complaints yet, but I'm sure I would if I continued the
practice!

On with SAR APRS discussions!

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

295. WA State SAR Conference, May 18/19/20, 2007

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-02-21 15:54:13 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 295 Message: 295

WA State SAR Conference is typically one of the larger SAR
conferences. It's claimed in the past to be the biggest in North
America. Some have said it's the largest SAR conference in the
world!

<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/pc/abtus/ourorg/sheriff/sar2007.htm>

This one is in Pierce County at the Crystal Mountain Ski Area.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

296. Magellan Blazer 12 GPS Hand Unit

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-03-20 15:39:29 UTC
From: Darrell Mortensen
Topic: 296 Message: 296

To All,

Good day.

I am looking at a Magellan Blazer 12 GPS Hand Unit to possibly purchase.

I would like to know if there is a way to get the NMEA information directly off the internal PCBA ?

This unit does not have an input/output jack to get the data externally.

Any input would be greatly appreciated.

Darrell, N8JTV
Michigan

297. RE: [TMD700A] software

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-03-29 17:27:59 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 297 Message: 297

Bob,

There are a lot of folks working on the integration of APRS into SAR activities.

The most important thing in selecting software for use during SAR activities is THAT A COUNTY STANDARD BE ADOPTED! So that everyone who supports SAR activities will use the same APRS software. Otherwise, the people will not be of much use in SAR base when they show up since they might not be familiar with the APRS program that is being utilized.

I use WinAPRS at my house and have established that as the standard for out county. We have a full time APRS station in our EOC which also runs WinAPRS. I picked that as the standard since at the time, I was the only one in our county playing APRS and trying to implement it into SAR activities. I am also intimately familiar with that program and can talk people through it over the phone, radio or email. That is very important to make things work. You need someone who can get others going FAST when the need arises.

For SAR use I am promoting using WinAPRS with DMAPPER which will plot up to eight trackers on MapTech Terrain Navigator Pro topo maps which most SAR groups around here are already using. Curt WE7U and I did a presentation on using APRS in SAR activities at the 2006 WA SAR Conference. I will be doing a similar presentation again this year at the 2007 WA SAR Conference in mid May.

Our Power Point presentation and two handouts are available for viewing and downloading at:

http://wetnet.net/~we7u/

Then go down to "Miscellaneous Links" and select the item of your choice:

WASAR 2006 Presentation: "Radio Tracking Your SAR Teams" ,
WASAR 2006 Handout: "Radio Tracking Your SAR Teams" ,
Brochure: "GETTING_STARTED_WITH_APRS" .

Enjoy and feel free to use this material in your local APRS presentations.

As far as which program you want to zero in on, that is up to the local users in your county who also want to use APRS for SAR activities. The most popular program to date world wide is still Ui-View. It too runs on a windows platform, however the author is Silent Key and he took the source codes with him. There are lots of add-ons but the basic program can not be updated. If your group is using the Linux OS, then Xastir is the program of choice.

Check out the compatibility chart at:
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/aprs_capabilities.html for a comparison. Curt
also has lots of good SAR and APRS info on his site.

There is also a SAR-APRS group that you might want to subscribe to. I have
listed it in the cc block. That groups URL is:
http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/SAR_APRS/

Let me know if you have any further questions,

Herb, KB7UVC
NW APRS Group, West Sound Coordinator
Mason County ARES/RACES, North AEC & APRS Coordinator
Email Address: hgerhardt@...

Mason County ComVan: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-1
Mason County Relay Truck: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-2
Mason County EOC: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-3
Mason County Foot Tracker: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-6

Where I am walking: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-7
Where I am driving: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-8
My other vehicle: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-9

> -----Original Message-----
> From: TMD700A@yahoogroups.com [mailto:TMD700A@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf
> Of mountaindog
> Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2007 8:35 PM
> To: TMD700A@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [TMD700A] software
>
>
> I'm new to HAM and APRS, but not new to 2 way radio
> communications. I want to get setup to take advantage of APRS. What
> software seems to be the most effective? My primary interest is
> keeping track of search teams in the field on missing person searches.
>
> 73
> Bob Weible, KE5MFV
> Byhalia, MS
>

298. Software needed

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-06 17:09:12 UTC
From: John Lockwood
Topic: 298 Message: 298

Gentlemen:

I am attempting to find a complete AVL (&SAR) server-based turnkey system for a commercial application. My business has 899/928 and 452/457 Mhz licenses, and needs the client/server mapping program. A few humdred units to start, with XP-driven client logging in from their offices. I do not want to re-invent the wheel, nor pay $8,500 for a package.

I also will use the system for BSA and youth group tracking.

If anyone has any leads or sugeestions I'd appreciate knowing about it.

John Lockwood
Line One, Inc
801-222-0222

299. RE: Software needed

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-07 15:13:03 UTC
From: kc2mmi
Topic: 298 Message: 299

John, sorry if this is obvious to you, but are those two business bands allowed to carry digital data transmissions? Or just voice? IIRC most of the applications that run a server, including Fugawi, can work with almost anything *if* you can rig the radios to send GPS data streams into a port on the computer. But as shipped, most of them expect input via cell phones (data into the internet) or other more conventional means if you can't.

APRS on ham radio gets away as being "beacon" or "data" transmission, similar use is not always allowed on other radio services.

300. Re: [SAR_APRS] RE: Software needed

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-07 21:03:30 UTC
From: John Lockwood
Topic: 298 Message: 300
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

301. APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-22 13:46:07 UTC
From: Paul B Dixon
Topic: 301 Message: 301

We are looking for a better way to carry our APRS units. We are using the Yaesu ft radios, Tinytrackers and Etrex GPS's. I'm sure other agencies use the same system and we are looking to see how and in what your agency package them. We have found the weakest link is the cable connections.

Bud Dixon
Jefferson Co. Search Dog Association
www.jcsda.com

302. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-22 14:41:15 UTC
From: richandbarb_verizon_mail
Topic: 301 Message: 302

Our SAR unit has just started testing APRS. For the field we are using a chest harness, we are using Garmin GPS 12, Tiny Track and Vertex 150 HT. It all fits but is a little on the cramped side. We are going to a larger chest harness. I can send you the info on it if you desire.

Good luck with you system.

Rich Dexter

Morongo Basin SAR

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Paul B Dixon
Sent: Sunday, April 22, 2007 6:46 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

We are looking for a better way to carry our APRS units. We are using the Yaesu ft radios, Tinytrackers and Etrex GPS's. I'm sure other agencies use the same system and we are looking to see how and in what your agency package them. We have found the weakest link is the cable connections.

Bud Dixon
Jefferson Co. Search Dog Association
www.jcsda.com

303. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-24 18:16:54 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 301 Message: 303

On Sun, 22 Apr 2007, Paul B Dixon wrote:

>
> We are looking for a better way to carry our APRS units. We are using
> the Yaesu ft radios, Tinytrackers and Etrex GPS's. I'm sure other
> agencies use the same system and we are looking to see how and in what
> your agency package them.

> We have found the weakest link is the cable
> connections.

Absolutely!

The best APRS tracker would be entirely self-contained and
waterproof, including batteries, GPS, TNC, radio, antenna(s) and all
cables. TNC is usually an OpenTracker (my current preference) or a
TinyTrak.

Upsides:
*) Relatively cheap.
*) Rugged.

Downsides:
*) You'll probably end up carrying a 2nd GPS for the normal SAR
functions.
*) Can't see where SAR base or the other SAR teams are on your GPS
map screen.
*) Must orient the package so that the GPS antenna is
unobstructed.
*) Must build the package from scratch.

Next best is probably a radio/TNC combo like the Kenwood TH-D7A plus
a single cable going off to the SAR member's GPS.

Upsides:
*) Off-the-shelf hardware, nothing to build.
*) Can use the radio for voice comms and APRS messaging.
*) Can see locations of base & other SAR teams on GPS map screen.
*) Each team can create waypoints on GPS and have them seen by other
teams.

Downsides:
*) More expensive.
*) Kenwood is not waterproof.
*) Antenna connector and battery clip on Kenwood are easily broken.

*) The GPS cable can get caught on brush.
*) Not as rugged.

The direction I'm heading is similar to choice #1 above but with a separate cable and GPS, using Tracker2 TNC's. Perhaps someday we'll be able to use Bluetooth or Zigbee in place of the GPS cable, so there'll be nothing to snag on brush.

Upsides:
*) Each team can do digipeating for other teams: Carry the digipeater network along with you into the woods.
*) Relatively cheap.
*) Fairly rugged.
*) Can see locations of base & other SAR teams on GPS map screen.
*) Each team can create waypoints on GPS and have them seen by other teams.
*) Open-source firmware in TNC: Better protocols oriented towards SAR may be developed in the future, like store-and-forward for positions, ad-hoc route discovery, etc.
*) A limited form of messaging is available by placing appropriately-named APRS objects near teams or base. This can be done in both directions.

Downsides:
*) Must build the package from scratch.
*) The GPS cable can get caught on brush.

It seems a lot of teams are going with option #2 because it's available off-the-shelf.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

304. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-24 20:39:24 UTC
From: 'Scott Miller'
Topic: 301 Message: 304

> The best APRS tracker would be entirely self-contained and
> waterproof, including batteries, GPS, TNC, radio, antenna(s) and all
> cables. TNC is usually an OpenTracker (my current preference) or a
> TinyTrak.

Speaking of which, anyone want to be a guinea pig for the OpenTracker+? I can ship a freebie kit - only catch is that I need someone to build it ASAP and provide feedback on construction and use. That, and the docs aren't quite done yet! I've been hoping to start shipping them by the end of the week, at least to fill existing OpenTracker orders.

The biggest change is that is now has waypoint output capability - received stations are sent to your GPS recevier as GPWPL strings to be plotted on the map. It's software-based, and it's not nearly as sensitive or noise-immune as a proper TNC, but it works and adds no cost, and actually reduces the number of parts in the kit. I'm curious how it'll do in a SAR setting.

Scott
N1VG

305. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-24 23:37:24 UTC
From: kd6aaj
Topic: 301 Message: 305

If I had a GPS, I'd give the freebie kit a shot.

I'm up here in Humboldt County, by Eureka, CA on the
west coast.

I'm just a ham operator and journeyman electrician,
but I like to build kits.

I buildt a 2meter to 6meter transvertor kit and an
eprom burner.

Ed, KD6AAJ

Do You Yahoo!?
Tired of spam? Yahoo! Mail has the best spam protection around
http://mail.yahoo.com

306. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-25 00:45:39 UTC
From: Bob Wagner
Topic: 301 Message: 306

Scott, I would be glad to build one and test it. I have a system that Alpine Rescue Team has been using almost two years and have lots of experience with APRS systems.

Bob Wagner

KC0OZ

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of 'Scott Miller'
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2007 2:39 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

> The best APRS tracker would be entirely self-contained and
> waterproof, including batteries, GPS, TNC, radio, antenna(s) and all
> cables. TNC is usually an OpenTracker (my current preference) or a
> TinyTrak.

Speaking of which, anyone want to be a guinea pig for the OpenTracker+? I can ship a freebie kit - only catch is that I need someone to build it ASAP and provide feedback on construction and use. That, and the docs aren't quite done yet! I've been hoping to start shipping them by the end of the week, at least to fill existing OpenTracker orders.

The biggest change is that is now has waypoint output capability - received stations are sent to your GPS recevier as GPWPL strings to be plotted on the map. It's software-based, and it's not nearly as sensitive or noise-immune as a proper TNC, but it works and adds no cost, and actually reduces the number of parts in the kit. I'm curious how it'll do in a SAR setting.

Scott
N1VG

307. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-25 16:49:08 UTC
From: 'Scott Miller'
Topic: 301 Message: 307

I think I've got enough testers for now - thanks for all the responses.

Scott
N1VG

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Bob Wagner
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2007 5:46 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Scott, I would be glad to build one and test it. I have a system that Alpine Rescue Team has been using almost two years and have lots of experience with APRS systems.

Bob Wagner

KC0OZ

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of 'Scott Miller'
Sent: Tuesday, April 24, 2007 2:39 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

> The best APRS tracker would be entirely self-contained and
> waterproof, including batteries, GPS, TNC, radio, antenna(s) and all
> cables. TNC is usually an OpenTracker (my current preference) or a
> TinyTrak.

Speaking of which, anyone want to be a guinea pig for the OpenTracker+? I can ship a freebie kit - only catch is that I need someone to build it ASAP and provide feedback on construction and use. That, and the docs aren't quite done yet! I've been hoping to start shipping them by the end of the week, at least to fill existing OpenTracker orders.

The biggest change is that is now has waypoint output capability - received stations are sent to your GPS recevier as GPWPL strings to be plotted on the map. It's software-based, and it's not nearly as sensitive or noise-immune as a proper TNC, but it works and adds no cost, and actually reduces the number of parts in the kit. I'm curious how it'll do in a SAR setting.

Scott
N1VG

308. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-26 20:33:46 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 301 Message: 308

My New Micro-Trak APRS transmitter (Version 1.4) will fit into a small plastic tube (11/16 X 1- 1/8 inches X 6 inches long) including a 9 volt battery. The tube I will be including with kits is similar to a tooth -brush shipping container. There will not be room in the enclosure for a GPS unit, since I assume that most people will want to use a portable.The Micro-Trak is only available on now 144.390, which could be a deal-killer for many of you SAR guys, but there will be a version on 144.800 in the near future for Europe, and there is no law against running them in the States if you need a semi-private APRS frequency. 1/3 of a watt with no CTCSS should not cause any repeater input problems. The newest Micro-Trak version will have a board mounted SMA antenna connector. This might fill the bill for your small packaged transmitting system. I will post pictures as available.

Allen
KG6HXO

********** See what's free at http://www.aol.com.

309. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-26 21:06:36 UTC
From: Robert Hanson
Topic: 301 Message: 309

Sounds very good Allen.

A couple of questions:

Is the transmitter crystal controlled?

Are they available now?

How much?

If a club purchases a number of units, is there a discount?

Will you be at Dayton?

OK, that was more than a couple.

73
Rob
W6RH

----- Original Message -----
From: CaptALord@...
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, April 26, 2007 1:33 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

My New Micro-Trak APRS transmitter (Version 1.4) will fit into a small plastic tube (11/16 X 1- 1/8 inches X 6 inches long) including a 9 volt battery. The tube I will be including with kits is similar to a tooth -brush shipping container. There will not be room in the enclosure for a GPS unit, since I assume that most people will want to use a portable.The Micro-Trak is only available on now 144.390, which could be a deal-killer for many of you SAR guys, but there will be a version on 144.800 in the near future for Europe, and there is no law against running them in the States if you need a semi-private APRS frequency. 1/3 of a watt with no CTCSS should not cause any repeater input problems. The newest Micro-Trak version will have a board mounted SMA antenna connector. This might fill the bill for your small packaged transmitting system. I will post pictures as available.

Allen
KG6HXO

See what's free at AOL.com.

310. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-04-26 21:24:08 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 301 Message: 310

In a message dated 4/26/2007 2:09:44 P.M. Pacific Standard Time,
w6rh@... writes:

Sounds very good Allen.

A couple of questions:

Is the transmitter crystal controlled?

Yes and rock steady even over balloon user temperature ratings.

Are they available now?

The Version 1.3 Unit is available now (_www.byonics.com/microtrak300_
(http://www.byonics.com/microtrak300)) but no plastic tubes. The main difference
between the 1.3 and 1.4 versions is the antenna connector and LED's. Plastic
tubes will take a few more weeks, as will the 144.800 version.

How much?

My Distributor, Byonics (_www.byonics.com_ (http://www.byonics.com)) is
selling the kits for 95.00 and I believe he is charging 110.00 for assembled PC
boards. You need to package and program the units according to your needs. The
1.3 APRS transmitter measure 1 X 3 inches, and weighs about 1/2 ounce.

If a club purchases a number of units, is there a discount?

Byonics will make you a discount deal, but I am not sure what he is charging
for the club discount rate.

Will you be at Dayton?

Byon of Byonics will be in Dayton displaying the Micro-Trak and the other
products in the TinyTrak line. I won't be able to personally make it this year.

73
Allen
KG6HXO

********** See what's free at http://www.aol.com.

311. New Xastir Release

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-05-02 19:36:01 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 311 Message: 311

```
Project: XASTIR (xastir)
Package: xastir-stable
Date : 2007-05-02 12:20

Project "XASTIR" ('xastir') has released the new version of package
'xastir-stable'.
You can download it from SourceForge.net by following this link:
<https://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=45562&release_id=505433>
or browse Release Notes and ChangeLog by visiting this link:
<https://sourceforge.net/project/shownotes.php?release_id=505433>

Homepage: <http://www.xastir.org>

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
```

312. Articles on the use of APRS for SAR

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-05-12 00:28:32 UTC
From: Stan Leeds, KC7EHJ
Topic: 312 Message: 312

Hello Group,

I have found a number of information on organizations using APRS for SAR, but I am having trouble of specific articles or stories that did use it (doesn't have to be a success story, but would be nice) for a search.

I am writing a humanities paper on technology development and use, and thinking on doing it on APRS and would like a SAR perspective.

Thanks and 73,

Stan/KC7EHJ

313. RE: [SAR_APRS] Articles on the use of APRS for SAR

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-05-12 04:03:14 UTC
From: Jim Baremore
Topic: 312 Message: 313

Go to the ARRL webpage, www.ARRL.ORG <http://www.arrl.org/> and enter APRS SAR in the search engine. You will find enough to get you started.

Jim K5QQ

_____

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Stan Leeds, KC7EHJ
Sent: Friday, May 11, 2007 7:29 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Articles on the use of APRS for SAR

Hello Group,

I have found a number of information on organizations using APRS for SAR, but I am having trouble of specific articles or stories that did use it (doesn't have to be a success story, but would be nice) for a search.

I am writing a humanities paper on technology development and use, and thinking on doing it on APRS and would like a SAR perspective.

Thanks and 73,

Stan/KC7EHJ

314. iPAQ HW6915

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-05-21 08:21:14 UTC
From: echosten
Topic: 314 Message: 314

Hi all,

I'm a member of the South African Mountain Club Eastern Province Section search & rescue team. We've got a number of Kenwood TH-D7A that we are planning to use for aprs, and we are shopping around for gps's. One of the options we are looking at is the HP iPAQ HW6915, but I cannot find any information if these units can be connected to the handhelds. Has anyone else tried these units and how robust are they out in the field?

Regards,
Eric
ZS2ECH

315. RE: [SAR_APRS] iPAQ HW6915

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-05-21 15:42:22 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 314 Message: 315

Eric,

Can't help you on the HW6915. Have never heard of it.

I can however recommend a great GPS. I just bought the Garmin 60CSx GPS and it is a really great unit and works great with APRS. It's antenna is really great and so far I have not found a place where I do not get a fix. I can even get a fix in the basement of my house! More info at:

https://buy.garmin.com/shop/store/assets/pdfs/specs/gpsmap60cx_60csx_spec.pdf

Whichever unit you get, make SURE IT IS USING THE SiRFstar III antenna system. It is what makes this unit so great by being able to get you a fix almost anywhere.

Hope that helps and good luck in working on using APRS during SAR activities. That is something I have been promoting for about 10 years now but for whatever reason, it is still not being used to a great extent here in our area.

Herb, KB7UVC
NW APRS Group, West Sound Coordinator
Mason County ARES/RACES, North AEC & APRS Coordinator
Email Address: hgerhardt@...

Mason County ComVan: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-1
Mason County Relay Truck: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-2
Mason County EOC: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-3
Mason County Foot Tracker: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-6

Where I am walking: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-7
Where I am driving: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-8
My other vehicle: http://map.findu.com/KB7UVC-9

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On
> Behalf Of echosten
> Sent: Monday, May 21, 2007 1:21 AM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] iPAQ HW6915
>
>
> Hi all,
>
> I'm a member of the South African Mountain Club Eastern Province
> Section search & rescue team. We've got a number of Kenwood TH-D7A that

> we are planning to use for aprs, and we are shopping around for gps's.
> One of the options we are looking at is the HP iPAQ HW6915, but I
> cannot find any information if these units can be connected to the
> handhelds. Has anyone else tried these units and how robust are they
> out in the field?
>
> Regards,
> Eric
> ZS2ECH
>
>

316. Re: iPAQ HW6915

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-05-21 15:54:49 UTC
From: h0chus_p0ckus
Topic: 314 Message: 316

http://h10010.www1.hp.com/wwpc/uk/en/sm/WF06a/21675-21679-21679-21679-297609-12343242.html

Eric, that is an interesting phone and the specs on it CLAIM that there is an integrated GPS and an integrated serial port output, although you probably need a special cable to access that.

I can only guess that HP does not sell it in their own domestic market here, because the cellular companies will not support phones with full GPS built into them, they prefer to charge customers and extra $10/month for GPS navigation services, plus data service packages $20+ per month.

So you will find US users have no hands-on knowledge of the product. Doublecheck with HP, it sounds like an outstanding solution--if the GPS can provide raw/NMEA output that is compatible with the D7. Ideally, you could probably arrange with your local vendor to connect one of these phones (either to a D7 or to a laptop) and capture the GPS output, to see what the options are. If the phone has the "usual" options to control serial port parameters, it will work. "NMEA" is a marine standard for RS-232 serial equipment as used on boats, the vendor or HP may be more familiar with that question. If this unit works for NMEA output, that's about as standard as it gets and should keep the D7 happy.

317. Re: iPAQ HW6915

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-05-21 16:00:26 UTC
From: h0chus_p0ckus
Topic: 314 Message: 317

I spoke too soon--HP is selling the phone direct & unlocked to the US domestic market now, and Cingular is selling it under their brand, if you can force them to admit it.

318. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: iPAQ HW6915

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-05-22 00:43:25 UTC
From: VA7OTC JD Erskine
Topic: 314 Message: 318

--- h0chus_p0ckus <onlyl1stma1l@...> wrote:
>
http://h10010.www1.hp.com/wwpc/uk/en/sm/WF06a/21675-21679-21679-21679-297609-12343242.html
>
> Eric, that is an interesting phone and the specs on
> it CLAIM that
> there is an integrated GPS and an integrated serial
> port output,
> although you probably need a special cable to access
> that.

snip

They list the cable in:
http://h20195.www2.hp.com/V2/pdf/4AA0-3535EEE.pdf
It's described as:
A Universal AutoSync Cable providing easy
synchronisation of your Pocket PC with your office or
home PC through a USB or Serial connection.
Product number: FA122A
The photo shows both USB and DB9 at one end, the HP
device connector on the other.

They also claim there are 250 free programs to choose
from: http://h71015.www7.hp.com/ I looked for the
Linux conversion app without any luck. :{)

Seriously, this looks like a neat device for many
(other) things I'd like an integrated unit for.
However given the purpose the Serial/USB cable is
probably designed for I'd select a more
waterproof/resistant, single purpose unit, with a more
robust connector.

I have a Garmin GPSMAP76C, and had a GPSMAP76 on a
project before, which would be fine for this
application. Rugged - itself and the serial
connection, waterproof, wide input voltage range, for
external power connection, use of field replaceable AA
cells vice AAA. I acquired the 76C not for the colour
as much as the longer operational battery life. It
appears this has degraded with the inclusion of the
mini-SD slot/reader (MAP76Cx) to what the MAP76 (grey
scale) was. This is still very good at approx. 16
hours and given the price may be a better selection.

If I could count on external power and work out antenna orientation I might consider using my Garmin Gecko201 as a GPS RX source for positional data. It certainly does not have a stunning screen and goes through AAA rapidly, also using a patch antenna requiring different physical orientation and therefore packaging.

The 76 series sits vertically in a pouch very nicely, the cable connected on the back rather than the bottom.

This HP unit may have useful mapping applications, however I see keeping it simple and ruggedised to be of more value. I didn't always think this way however learned why various services made things sailor proof, or attempted to.

Work out your application then your gear. It's always easy for us to rationalise applications to match toys or their features.

Cheers, John

VA7OTC VE0JD/mm
Victoria, BC

Be smarter than spam. See how smart SpamGuard is at giving junk email the boot with the All-new Yahoo! Mail at http://mrd.mail.yahoo.com/try_beta?.intl=ca

319. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-05-22 01:54:17 UTC
From: Cliff A. Weaver
Topic: 301 Message: 319

After about 1 1/2 years of field testing, several phone calls, and months
of
training, we have a prototype that seems to hold up during search and
rescue
operations for mobile ground and K9 SAR teams. We put this package in the
searchers backback.

Thanks to Bud in Louisville, KY for helping with this project.

http://ovsar.org/APRSunits.htm
http://ovsar.org/OperationsTruck.htm

Cliff A. Weaver SAR TECH I
Ohio Valley Search and Rescue
Evansville, Indiana
KC9LPH

320. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-05-22 12:50:27 UTC
From: richandbarb_verizon_mail
Topic: 301 Message: 320

Hi Cliff =

What GPS antenna are you using for your APRS? Tell me more about the power supply you are using. We've just started a APRS capability and are using a 9v battery for powering the Tiny Trak.

Your team has a very nice set up.

Thanks,

Rich Dexter

KE6DIY

Morongo Basin SAR

Yucca Valley, CA

_____

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Cliff A. Weaver
Sent: Monday, May 21, 2007 6:54 PM
To: budhah@...; SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS package

After about 1 1/2 years of field testing, several phone calls, and months of
training, we have a prototype that seems to hold up during search and rescue
operations for mobile ground and K9 SAR teams. We put this package in the searchers backback.

Thanks to Bud in Louisville, KY for helping with this project.

http://ovsar. <http://ovsar.org/APRSunits.htm> org/APRSunits.htm
http://ovsar. <http://ovsar.org/OperationsTruck.htm> org/OperationsTruck.htm

----
Cliff A. Weaver SAR TECH I
Ohio Valley Search and Rescue
Evansville, Indiana
KC9LPH

321. My SAR Tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-05-22 17:46:38 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 321 Message: 321

I placed photos of the unit I have been working on for SAR work. There is a small hole in the side of the tube to hardwire a Deluo hockey puck GPS receiver or a wired lead for an ETREX. A 9 volt battry will run a Micro-Track about 24 hours with 120 second check ins. It will run a Deluo and the MT 300 for about 5-6 hours.

http://health.ph.groups.yahoo.com/group/SAR_APRS/photos/view/263b?b=3

322. Radio cable requests

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-05 04:24:02 UTC
From: 'Scott Miller'
Topic: 322 Message: 322

My supply of standard speaker-mic cables is running low and I'm ordering another batch from the factory in China. I'm also getting some Kenwood types this time, since I've had a lot of requests for those. The same factory also produces about two dozen other types of cables, including a lot of Motorola varieties.

Last time I had to get Motorola cables for the local SAR team's GP68 handhelds, they were about $20 each from a Motorola dealer. I think the big screw-on types are even more expensive. If anyone out there has requests for particular cables, let me know and I'll add some to the order if there's enough demand to justify it.

These will be plain 1-meter cables, uncoiled, with a black PVC jacket and stripped and tinned leads, suitable for building tracker cables or whatever. Let me know your requests soon, as I'm trying to get an order placed in the next few days. My last shipment has lasted about a year, so it's not likely I'll reorder again soon.

Thanks,

Scott
N1VG

323. Re: [SAR_APRS] Radio cable requests

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-05 12:13:26 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 322 Message: 323

--- 'Scott Miller' <scott@...> wrote:

> My supply of standard speaker-mic cables is running
> low and I'm ordering
> another batch from the factory in China. I'm also
> getting some Kenwood
>
I'd be interested in some kenwood ones.. 2.5mm & 3.5mm
in a moulded connector.

John

_____
All New Yahoo! Mail ? Tired of unwanted email come-ons? Let our SpamGuard protect you.
http://uk.docs.yahoo.com/nowyoucan.html

324. Cables

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-05 20:26:48 UTC
From: kfallon@seneschal.com
Topic: 324 Message: 324

Some for an HT-1000 (Jedi ?) would be useful...

325. RE: [SAR_APRS] Cables

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-05 21:48:03 UTC
From: 'Scott Miller'
Topic: 324 Message: 325

Checking on it now. How many would you need? Normally I have to order at least 100, but I can get away with a minimum order of 20 for the first batch of a new type, to test demand. I don't need that many committed orders, but if I know I'll sell 20 right off I'll definitely order more than that.

Scott

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of kfallon@...
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2007 1:27 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Cables

Some for an HT-1000 (Jedi ?) would be useful...

326. RE: [SAR_APRS] Cables

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-06 01:17:02 UTC
From: 'Scott Miller'
Topic: 324 Message: 326

I got an answer back from the factory - they've got those, but they're a lot more expensive than most of the others I'm getting. I'd probably be able to sell them in the $16 to $18 range, depending on how many I get. If I can be sure of selling at least 10 of those right away, I'll go ahead and place an order. Let me know... and if anyone else here needs some, just let me know how many.

Scott

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of kfallon@...
Sent: Tuesday, June 05, 2007 1:27 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Cables

Some for an HT-1000 (Jedi ?) would be useful...

327. Re:Radio cable requests

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-06 10:29:08 UTC
From: Bill Brown - CISSP
Topic: 322 Message: 327

Can you do an EF Johnson 5100? I know a number of buyers for that one.

KB1MOV
Bill

328. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re:Radio cable requests

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-06 14:35:53 UTC
From: 'Scott Miller'
Topic: 322 Message: 328

Yeah, it's the same as the one for the HT 1000, according to my list. Again, they'll probably be like $18. Not sure what they'd cost you from a dealer. I can get away with just ordering 20 this time, to see how fast they move... don't want to spend hundreds on cables I'll never sell, but it sounds like at least a few people are interested in this one.

Scott

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Bill Brown - CISSP
> Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2007 3:29 AM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re:Radio cable requests
>
> Can you do an EF Johnson 5100? I know a number of buyers for
> that one.
>
> KB1MOV
> Bill
>
>
>
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>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
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>
>

329. APRS discussion, forwarded from SAR-L list

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-13 14:16:12 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 329 Message: 329

---------- Forwarded message ----------
Date: Wed, 13 Jun 2007 07:03:16 -0700 (PDT)
From: "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...>
To: "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...>
Cc: Discussion list for Search and Rescue <sar-l@...>
Subject: Re: [SAR-L] SEARCH TEAM SOFTWARE

On Wed, 13 Jun 2007, Lisa Harper wrote:

> Thanks, this is great! I'm happy to switch over to the other list...
> hadn't known about it. One more question that I couldn't easily find
> an answer to by digging around. How frequently can you send updates
> via something like a TinyTrack4?

Depends. Do you want to piss of the local APRS users or not? ;-)

Near Seattle we have a very active APRS community. Around here the
recommendation is generally no more than each three minutes if
you're on timed beacons. If you have a parked car beaconing every
three minutes for hours though, someone will probably call you on
that. APRS isn't supposed to be a replacement for LoJack.

That said, if you're doing special events, emergencies (like SAR),
etc, faster beacons are ok as long as there's a time-limit on the
event (like a day or three max?).

Also, if you're using SmartBeaconing(tm) and CornerPegging instead
of timed beacons, which some of the devices I mentioned can do (but
not the Kenwoods!), then you can have beacon rates that depend on
your speed and your cornering. I use these algorithms in my Jeep.
Recommended settings for SmartBeaconing are in the table on this
page:

<http://info.aprs.net/wikka.php?wakka=SmartBeaconing>

Also watch your path settings, another way to either love or abuse
the system. Recommended settings are "WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1" for mobiles,
and "WIDE2-2" for fixed stations in the U.S. and Canada. A few
regions have not switched to these settings yet so your mileage may
vary. It depends on how progressive the APRS'ers are in your area.
These settings have been the standard for a couple of years now.

Check out "WE7U-12" on aprsworld.net or findu.com to see what an
OpenTracker using SmartBeaconing and CornerPegging can do. It was
active this morning and will be again shortly after 2pm Pacific
time. My GPS didn't get lock right away when I started out, but
after it did I laid down a good track.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

330. APRS discussion, forwarded from SAR-L list

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-13 14:14:05 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 329 Message: 330

Figured this was of more interest over here. Might get some
"discussion" going (read "arguments", ha ha). I may forward another
message or two (smaller ones) pertaining to this thread as well.

---------- Forwarded message ----------
Date: Wed, 13 Jun 2007 06:40:42 -0700 (PDT)
From: "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...>
To: "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...>
Cc: Discussion list for Search and Rescue <sar-l@...>
Subject: Re: [SAR-L] SEARCH TEAM SOFTWARE

On Wed, 13 Jun 2007, Lisa Harper wrote:

> Thanks for the APRS links, Curt. I've been interesting in playing with
> APRS and Xastir for some time but have resisted because it would
> require buying equipment and renewing a Ham license.

Renewing a license is free, you can do it online with the FCC, but
maybe you're talking about getting a brand-spanking new one because
another has lapsed. Still, easier than it used to be!

> What kind of
> setup do you have... or can you recommend a minimum setup that might
> get me started?

At home I'm running a _very_ old Kenwood 2-meter VHF mobile rig, a
TNC-X TNC (bought as a kit), and a PentiumPro 200MHz box running
SuSE 9.1 Linux. Nothing special as you can see, all old and/or
cheap/free stuff. All of the software including the operating
system is free.

In the Jeep I'm running a Kenwood TM-261A 50W 2-meter VHF mobile rig
(the cheapest thing on sale at the time at $150, I'd have bought the
equivalent Yaesu or ICOM 50W or 65W rig in a heartbeat), an
OpenTracker-1 transmit-only APRS TNC (bought as a kit), a Radio
Shack DigiTraveler GPS (on closeout at $30), and a 1/4 wave 2-meter
whip antenna on the roof (yes, I have a roof, it's an old Cherokee).
I built my own cables, plus added a regulator to the GPS so I could
run it off 12V instead of 6V. The APRS radio and the TNC are inside
an ammo-can. I plan to switch to a Tracker2 TNC in the Jeep
sometime soon.

Oh yea, I also have a James Jefferson (aprsworld.net) designed
"APO2" automatic power off gadget in there between my vehicle
battery and the radio equipment. Once I turn off the engine the
battery voltage starts going down. When it hits a preset level it
shuts off all the equipment downstream from the APO2 switch.

There's a bypass switch on it for when I want to keep operating with the vehicle off. The power wiring can be quickly reconfigured: Anderson Powerpole connectors for the 12V power everywhere in the Jeep and on the 12V equipment in the house. James sells the APO3 now I think. They're relatively cheap compared to similar commercial gadgets.

As far as getting started:

Home station or laptop software: Most people run Windows, so Probably UI-View or WinAPRS are the best bets for them. UI-View is easiest to learn and use. A SAR friend in a nearby county swears by WinAPRS and is a long-time user. Windows users can also run Xastir (my personal favorite, for obvious reasons) in one of three ways:

*) VMWare Player running Linux & Xastir (We have a download for this and a Wiki page about it)
*) Microsoft Virtual PC running Linux & Xastir
*) Cygwin & Xastir

I listed them in order of preference, plus (I think) in order of number of users currently running in each manner.

If you're a Mac OSX or Linux/Unix user, by all means go the Xastir route and sign up on our mailing list to ask questions:

<http://www.xastir.org>

You _can_ run "AGWPE" (Windows) as a soundcard TNC, which means that you don't need to buy a TNC at all to send/receive packets. Then, any 2-meter radio tuned to 144.39MHz simplex can do APRS. There's an equivalent for Linux called "soundmodem". If you just want to play with APRS without transmitting or really buying anything, this plus a scanner are probably a good option.

You can load APRS software and connect to network feeds without buying any hardware to watch the locals (or not so locals) drive around on the maps. No special hardware required in this case.

For mobile use: Many people prefer the Kenwood TM-D700A mobile rig as it has everything you need for APRS except the GPS itself. Hook in a GPS and you're up and running quickly. For portable use, many people go for the Kenwood TH-D7A(G), or the TH-D7E if you're outside the U.S. I'm not a big fan of the Kenwood APRS rigs, but many are.

Alternatives for mobile use:
---
*) Alinco DR-135TP with built-in TNC
*) Alinco DR-135T with the T2-135 TNC add-on from N1VG (highly recommended once it gets into production!).
*) Nearly any 2-meter radio, handheld or mobile rig, with one of these TNC's:

*) OpenTracker-1+
*) Tracker2 (not in production yet, but very cool, I have some!)
*) TinyTrak3
*) TinyTrak4 (not in production yet)
*) MicroTNC+

I can think of some more combinations. Each one above has pluses
and minuses.

See the APRS Client Comparisons Chart link listed in my .sig below
for details about the various APRS clients and some of the APRS
radios.

See this link for a very SAR-related page talking about some of the
combos above and some others, plus ideas for how to effectively do
APRS in SAR:

<http://wiki.ampr2.net/nwaprs/SearchAndRescue>

Also note that some rigs will plot positions of other APRS stations
as waypoints on your GPS, so you can leave your GPS on it's map
screen and see where people are relative to you. This is very cool
while portable or mobile, especially if you don't have a PDA or
laptop to use for a full display at the time. Rigs which can do
this:

Kenwood TM-D700A
Kenwood TH-D7A(G)
Kenwood TH-D7E
Alinco DR-135T w/T2-135 TNC
Tracker2 TNC
TinyTrak4 TNC (planned feature)
OpenTracker1+ TNC
AntiTracker receive-only TNC
Perhaps the MicroTNC+??

Xastir also has this capability, but you'd need a laptop or desktop
to accomplish this.

FWIW: My ideal (but still cheap) mobile setup would be a Tracker2
TNC, a Garmin Mapping GPS, a 50W 2-meter mobile radio (transmitting
at medium power most of the time), and a 1/4 wave whip antenna.
This allows me to see who's around me on the GPS, send my position
out to them, transmit objects to them by creating waypoints in the
GPS, digipeating other stations during SAR missions from the
Tracker2 if necessary, yet still allows me to hook up a laptop to
the TNC whenever I wish to get the full mapping capability.

My ideal portable setup would be a 2-meter handheld, a Tracker2, a
battery, and a mapping GPS. Similar to above and can still digipeat
other team's through my station to others. A Kenwood TH-D7A(G)
cannot digipeat. A Kenwood TM-D700A can however.

I'm sure other people who are into APRS would have different recommendations due to their particular biases and tradeoffs.

Sorry to write so much. I'm kind'a into this stuff. If anyone would like to take further discussion to the SAR_APRS list, feel free. I may repost this message over there as well to get more discussion going. That list is pretty quiet sometimes.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

331. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS discussion, forwarded from SAR-L list

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-13 14:45:18 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 329 Message: 331
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

```
[ Attachment content not displayed ]
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332. APRS discussion, forwarded from SAR-L list

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-13 14:16:43 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 329 Message: 332

---------- Forwarded message ----------
Date: Wed, 13 Jun 2007 07:12:12 -0700 (PDT)
From: "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...>
To: "Curt Mills, WE7U" <archer@...>,
Discussion list for Search and Rescue <sar-l@...>
Subject: Re: [SAR-L] SEARCH TEAM SOFTWARE

On Wed, 13 Jun 2007, Curt, WE7U wrote:

> Near Seattle we have a very active APRS community. Around here the
> recommendation is generally no more than each three minutes if
> you're on timed beacons. If you have a parked car beaconing every
> three minutes for hours though, someone will probably call you on
> that. APRS isn't supposed to be a replacement for LoJack.

Oh yea, I wanted to mention: On my OpenTracker-1 I have two config
settings. Mine's set up to switch between the configs based on
speed.

If I'm doing below 7mph I switch to the every-seven-minutes
timed beacon and a hiker symbol. When above 7mph it switches to a
Jeep symbol and SmartBeaconing/CornerPegging.

So... When I park I get 2 or 3 beacons out until the APO2 kicks in
and switches power OFF to all the devices. When I get in and start
the engine, the APO2 powers everything ON within a few seconds and
I'm up and running again. My voice radio is downstream from the
APO2 as well.

This scheme also protects all the devices (except the APO2) from the
power spikes and low-voltages that occur when starting the engine.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

333. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS discussion, forwarded from SAR-L list

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-13 16:29:15 UTC
From: 'Scott Miller'
Topic: 329 Message: 333

I talked to a Pryme rep about it, maybe a year or two ago. $585 per mic, and I think the base unit was over $4000. Defnitely over $2000. For SAR use, the real killer was the fact that it runs on an internal 8-hour battery. That means you've got to unplug the mic and recharge it every 8 hours, and they didn't say how long that takes.

In my experience, that's likely to result in a dead mic a few hours into what might be an overnight deployment in the woods. Radio batteries are at least manageable, when you can take spares and drop off dead ones at the CP for charging. But how many spare $500 mics could you really keep on hand?

I studied the matter while I was working on my own GPS mic design, and came up with two options that I considered practical - the mic would have to have a compartment for either a pair of AAs, or a single CR-123A lithium cell. AAs are commonly carried by all of the SAR teams I know, and even the rechargeables give good energy density. The CR-123A is used in some flashlights and things, and while not as common (and not rechargeable) it's reasonably inexpensive, can be bought at Wal-Mart, and being a lithium cell has excellent energy density and a low self-discharge rate which makes long-term storage practical.

A cell phone style prismatic Li-Ion battery could be used, but that gets more expensive and more complicated. Even for the cylindrical cells above, designing the mic enclosure would be a major expense. I've only ever seen one mic with a battery compartment, and that was for AAA cells. That *could* be used, and the Garmin Gekos for instance get decent life out of AAAs, but the volumetric energy density isn't nearly as good. You get maybe 700 mA out of a AAA, vs. > 2000 mA for a AA. That's the difference between a 10-hour runtime and a 28-hour runtime.

If anyone can recommend someone with plastic injection mold making experience, let me know. I found a factory in China that'd be able to make integrated APRS mics, but they didn't seem to have the engineering resources to design the housing themselves. For that reason the project's been on hold for awhile, though I've got all of the electronics on hand for a prototype.

Scott
N1VG

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of dcassoc@...
Sent: Wednesday, June 13, 2007 7:45 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS discussion, forwarded from SAR-L list

Have any of you guys ever hear/work with these GPSMIC location systems (www.pryme.com)?

Dave Clarke
NJSAR

----- Original Message -----
From: "Curt, WE7U"
Date: Wednesday, June 13, 2007 10:20 am
Subject: [SAR_APRS] APRS discussion, forwarded from SAR-L list
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

> Figured this was of more interest over here. Might get some
> "discussion" going (read "arguments", ha ha). I may forward another
> message or two (smaller ones) pertaining to this thread as well.
>
> ---------- Forwarded message ----------
> Date: Wed, 13 Jun 2007 06:40:42 -0700 (PDT)
> From: "Curt, WE7U"
> To: "Curt, WE7U"
> Cc: Discussion list for Search and Rescue
> Subject: Re: [SAR-L] SEARCH TEAM SOFTWARE
>
> On Wed, 13 Jun 2007, Lisa Harper wrote:
>
> > Thanks for the APRS links, Curt. I've been interesting in
> playing with
> > APRS and Xastir for some time but have resisted because it would
> > require buying equipment and renewing a Ham license.
>
> Renewing a license is free, you can do it online with the FCC, but
> maybe you're talking about getting a brand-spanking new one because
> another has lapsed. Still, easier than it used to be!
>
>
> > What kind of
> > setup do you have... or can you recommend a minimum setup that might
> > get me started?
>
> At home I'm running a _very_ old Kenwood 2-meter VHF mobile rig, a
> TNC-X TNC (bought as a kit), and a PentiumPro 200MHz box running
> SuSE 9.1 Linux. Nothing special as you can see, all old and/or
> cheap/free stuff. All of the software including the operating
> system is free.
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> In the Jeep I'm running a Kenwood TM-261A 50W 2-meter VHF mobile rig
> (the cheapest thing on sale at the time at $150, I'd have bought the
> equivalent Yaesu or ICOM 50W or 65W rig in a heartbeat), an
> OpenTracker-1 transmit-only APRS TNC (bought as a kit), a Radio
> Shack DigiTraveler GPS (on closeout at $30), and a 1/4 wave 2-meter
> whip antenna on the roof (yes, I have a roof, it's an old Cherokee).

> I built my own cables, plus added a regulator to the GPS so I could
> run it off 12V instead of 6V. The APRS radio and the TNC are inside
> an ammo-can. I plan to switch to a Tracker2 TNC in the Jeep
> sometime soon.
>
> Oh yea, I also have a James Jefferson (aprsworld.net) designed
> "APO2" automatic power off gadget in there between my vehicle
> battery and the radio equipment. Once I turn off the engine the
> battery voltage starts going down. When it hits a preset level it
> shuts off all the equipment downstream from the APO2 switch.
> There's a bypass switch on it for when I want to keep operating with
> the vehicle off. The power wiring can be quickly reconfigured:
> Anderson Powerpole connectors for the 12V power everywhere in the
> Jeep and on the 12V equipment in the house. James sells the APO3
> now I think. They're relatively cheap compared to similar
> commercial gadgets.
>
> As far as getting started:
> -------------------------
> Home station or laptop software: Most people run Windows, so
> Probably UI-View or WinAPRS are the best bets for them. UI-View is
> easiest to learn and use. A SAR friend in a nearby county
> swears by
> WinAPRS and is a long-time user. Windows users can also run Xastir
> (my personal favorite, for obvious reasons) in one of three ways:
>
> *) VMWare Player running Linux & Xastir (We have a download for
> this and a Wiki page about it)
> *) Microsoft Virtual PC running Linux & Xastir
> *) Cygwin & Xastir
>
> I listed them in order of preference, plus (I think) in order of
> number of users currently running in each manner.
>
> If you're a Mac OSX or Linux/Unix user, by all means go the Xastir
> route and sign up on our mailing list to ask questions:
>
>
>
> You _can_ run "AGWPE" (Windows) as a soundcard TNC, which means that
> you don't need to buy a TNC at all to send/receive packets. Then,
> any 2-meter radio tuned to 144.39MHz simplex can do APRS. There's
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> play with APRS without transmitting or really buying anything, this
> plus a scanner are probably a good option.
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> You can load APRS software and connect to network feeds without
> buying any hardware to watch the locals (or not so locals) drive
> around on the maps. No special hardware required in this case.
>

> For mobile use: Many people prefer the Kenwood TM-D700A mobile rig
> as it has everything you need for APRS except the GPS itself. Hook
> in a GPS and you're up and running quickly. For portable use, many
> people go for the Kenwood TH-D7A(G), or the TH-D7E if you're outside
> the U.S. I'm not a big fan of the Kenwood APRS rigs, but many are.
>
> Alternatives for mobile use:
> ----------
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> *) Alinco DR-135T with the T2-135 TNC add-on from N1VG (highly
> recommended once it gets into production!).
> *) Nearly any 2-meter radio, handheld or mobile rig, with one of
> these TNC's:
> *) OpenTracker-1+
> *) Tracker2 (not in production yet, but very cool, I have some!)
> *) TinyTrak3
> *) TinyTrak4 (not in production yet)
> *) MicroTNC+
>
> I can think of some more combinations. Each one above has pluses
> and minuses.
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> See the APRS Client Comparisons Chart link listed in my .sig below
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> radios.
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> See this link for a very SAR-related page talking about some of the
> combos above and some others, plus ideas for how to effectively do
> APRS in SAR:
>
>
>
> Also note that some rigs will plot positions of other APRS stations
> as waypoints on your GPS, so you can leave your GPS on it's map
> screen and see where people are relative to you. This is very cool
> while portable or mobile, especially if you don't have a PDA or
> laptop to use for a full display at the time. Rigs which can do
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>
> Kenwood TM-D700A
> Kenwood TH-D7A(G)
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> Alinco DR-135T w/T2-135 TNC
> Tracker2 TNC
> TinyTrak4 TNC (planned feature)
> OpenTracker1+ TNC
> AntiTracker receive-only TNC
> Perhaps the MicroTNC+??
>
> Xastir also has this capability, but you'd need a laptop or desktop

> to accomplish this.
>
> FWIW: My ideal (but still cheap) mobile setup would be a Tracker2
> TNC, a Garmin Mapping GPS, a 50W 2-meter mobile radio (transmitting
> at medium power most of the time), and a 1/4 wave whip antenna.
> This allows me to see who's around me on the GPS, send my position
> out to them, transmit objects to them by creating waypoints in the
> GPS, digipeating other stations during SAR missions from the
> Tracker2 if necessary, yet still allows me to hook up a laptop to
> the TNC whenever I wish to get the full mapping capability.
>
> My ideal portable setup would be a 2-meter handheld, a Tracker2, a
> battery, and a mapping GPS. Similar to above and can still digipeat
> other team's through my station to others. A Kenwood TH-D7A(G)
> cannot digipeat. A Kenwood TM-D700A can however.
>
> I'm sure other people who are into APRS would have different
> recommendations due to their particular biases and tradeoffs.
>
> Sorry to write so much. I'm kind'a into this stuff. If anyone
> would like to take further discussion to the SAR_APRS list, feel
> free. I may repost this message over there as well to get more
> discussion going. That list is pretty quiet sometimes.
>
> --
> Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
> "Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
> "Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
> "The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
>
>

334. APRS-compatible GPS'es

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-28 18:20:09 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 334 Message: 334

Please review the Wiki pages here:

<http://info.aprs.net>
Hardware -> APRS Compatible GPS Units

See the notes about adding "NMEA in" to any GPS listed if it can
display the positions of other GPS'es on it's map screen.

Also: I tried my best to glean which ones were the SirfSTAR-III
units (higher sensitivity) from Garmins offerings, and I _think_ I
got it right. I listed more handhelds originally but had to delete
some that only had USB interfaces and not serial.

Please check my work and add to the Wiki as you can. Thanks!

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

335. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-28 21:29:30 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 334 Message: 335

you can ADD the Earthmate PN-20 to the compatible list. No problem w/ NMEA and has SirfSTAR-III chipset.

dave clarke
NJSAR J40

----- Original Message -----
From: "Curt, WE7U"
Date: Thursday, June 28, 2007 2:52 pm
Subject: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

>
> Please review the Wiki pages here:
>
>
> Hardware -> APRS Compatible GPS Units
>
> See the notes about adding "NMEA in" to any GPS listed if it can
> display the positions of other GPS'es on it's map screen.
>
> Also: I tried my best to glean which ones were the SirfSTAR-III
> units (higher sensitivity) from Garmins offerings, and I _think_ I
> got it right. I listed more handhelds originally but had to delete
> some that only had USB interfaces and not serial.
>
> Please check my work and add to the Wiki as you can. Thanks!
>
> --
> Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
> "Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
> "Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
> "The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
>

336. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-28 21:31:07 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 334 Message: 336

On Thu, 28 Jun 2007 dcassoc@... wrote:

> you can ADD the Earthmate PN-20 to the compatible list. No problem w/ NMEA and has SirfSTAR-III chipset.

An NMEA-out-only hocky-puck style GPS, right? Probably 12-channel?

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

337. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-28 21:32:49 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 334 Message: 337

On Thu, 28 Jun 2007, Curt, WE7U wrote:

> On Thu, 28 Jun 2007 dcassoc@... wrote:
>
> > you can ADD the Earthmate PN-20 to the compatible list. No problem w/ NMEA and has SirfSTAR-III chipset.
>
> An NMEA-out-only hocky-puck style GPS, right? Probably 12-channel?

Never mind. It's a handheld.

Does it understand the waypoint sentences, either Garmin or Magellan
format, that allow us to define waypoints in it corresponding to
positions of other APRS trackers?

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

338. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-28 21:44:25 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 334 Message: 338

On Thu, 28 Jun 2007, Curt, WE7U wrote:

> > > you can ADD the Earthmate PN-20 to the compatible list. No problem w/ NMEA and has SirfSTAR-III chipset.

I don't see that it has a serial interface, only USB. This means
that it cannot output NMEA sentences, and therefore cannot receive
them either from APRS trackers. This makes it useless for APRS.

Correct me if I'm wrong.

A lot of GPS'es are going to USB-only connections, which means they
drop off my list entirely.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

339. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-28 22:22:32 UTC
From: Bill Vodall WA7NWP
Topic: 334 Message: 339

On 6/28/07, Curt, WE7U <archer@> wrote:
>

Another chance to ping Curt - it must be my lucky month...

>

> A lot of GPS'es are going to USB-only connections, which means they
> drop off my list entirely.

USB is still useful. We should be able to access USB GPS from
mini-computers like the NSLU2 or Nokia 770/800. While not something
I'd want to carry too far it's certainly reasonable to think of using
them in a mobile or portable situation.

We have USB client to Bluetooth dongles.. It would be cool to get a
Bluetooth from USB widget.

Bill WA7NWP

340. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-28 22:26:13 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 334 Message: 340

On Thu, 28 Jun 2007, Bill Vodall WA7NWP wrote:

> > A lot of GPS'es are going to USB-only connections, which means they
> > drop off my list entirely.
>
> USB is still useful. We should be able to access USB GPS from
> mini-computers like the NSLU2 or Nokia 770/800. While not something
> I'd want to carry too far it's certainly reasonable to think of using
> them in a mobile or portable situation.

'cept for SAR the only place that _usually_ makes sense to have more
equipment is at base. Portable or mobile you're seldom given the
luxury or the time to use a laptop or similar.

So... GPS'es with serial ports which preferably support the NMEA-in
Garmin or Magellan-format waypoint definition sentence, are the ones
you'll want for portable/mobile SAR if you're doing APRS tracking.

> We have USB client to Bluetooth dongles.. It would be cool to get a
> Bluetooth from USB widget.

Host-mode USB? I suppose that possible someday, 'cuz they have
complete Linux systems in an RJ-45 connector now. Certainly should
be able to hide one inside a dongle.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

341. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-29 00:07:18 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 334 Message: 341

ran it through usb -to- serial, seemed ok. Can be ordered w/ serial cable

dc

----- Original Message -----
From: "Curt, WE7U"
Date: Thursday, June 28, 2007 5:44 pm
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

> On Thu, 28 Jun 2007, Curt, WE7U wrote:
>
> > > > you can ADD the Earthmate PN-20 to the compatible list.
> No problem w/ NMEA and has SirfSTAR-III chipset.
>
> I don't see that it has a serial interface, only USB. This means
> that it cannot output NMEA sentences, and therefore cannot receive
> them either from APRS trackers. This makes it useless for APRS.
>
> Correct me if I'm wrong.
>
> A lot of GPS'es are going to USB-only connections, which means they
> drop off my list entirely.
>
> --
> Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
> "Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
> "Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
> "The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
>

342. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-29 15:36:37 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 334 Message: 342

On Fri, 29 Jun 2007 dcassoc@... wrote:

> ran it through usb -to- serial, seemed ok. Can be ordered w/ serial cable

The problem with USB is this: One end, the "host" end, has to have
full-blown drivers and enough smarts to use them properly. The
other end, the "slave" end, can be relatively stupid.

So... You want to connect up a USB device to something other than a
PC or a Mac... You can't. Something like a USB->Serial adapter is
a Host-mode USB to RS-232 Serial adapter, so you still need a
"smart" controller on the USB-host end.

As far as I know you cannot buy a device that connects to the USB
slave end and then provides RS-232 serial data out the other end of
the cable. This should be possible, but it would require something
like a small Linux computer built into the cable. There exist
ethernet devices that are like this, where the RJ-45 connector has
an extra-long housing and contains an entire Linux computer inside,
but I haven't seen any yet for USB. I expect they'd be prohibitive.
I have one of the ethernet ones sitting here on my desk soldered to
a PC board.

Some of the end devices come with USB cables but have a regular
serial cable available as well. If this is what you're talking
about and one can hook up the GPS to another "dumb" device like an
APRS TNC to receive serial NMEA sentences, then the device can be
used for general-purpose APRS.

If the device _only_ has USB access to the NMEA sentences, or
requires another program running on a PC in order to make NMEA
sentences available at a simulated COM port, then the device has
very limited uses in APRS: Namely running on a Windows laptop along
with the comm-port program plus an APRS program talking to that
simulated port.

So, can this device be used with a serial cable to feed NMEA serial
sentences to another dumb device, without a PC or USB being
involved? I'll be happy to add it to the table if it can do this,
but I need verification that it would work. I didn't even see the
serial cable option on their website.

--
Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
"The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

343. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-30 09:45:46 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 334 Message: 343

thanks for the feedback Curt. Understand now how USB actually operates. I was informed by Delorme that the PN-20 can be ordered w/ serial, but must be specified at time of order (that's probably why it does not show up as assceesory). Great unit, but downloading sufficient quads for SAR ops will get expensive (about $28/quad). Think that is a bit of a rip-off!

Thanks again.

dc

----- Original Message -----
From: "Curt, WE7U"
Date: Friday, June 29, 2007 11:36 am
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

> On Fri, 29 Jun 2007 dcassoc@... wrote:
>
> > ran it through usb -to- serial, seemed ok. Can be ordered w/
> serial cable
>
> The problem with USB is this: One end, the "host" end, has to have
> full-blown drivers and enough smarts to use them properly. The
> other end, the "slave" end, can be relatively stupid.
>
> So... You want to connect up a USB device to something other
> than a
> PC or a Mac... You can't. Something like a USB->Serial adapter is
> a Host-mode USB to RS-232 Serial adapter, so you still need a
> "smart" controller on the USB-host end.
>
> As far as I know you cannot buy a device that connects to the USB
> slave end and then provides RS-232 serial data out the other end of
> the cable. This should be possible, but it would require something
> like a small Linux computer built into the cable. There exist
> ethernet devices that are like this, where the RJ-45 connector has
> an extra-long housing and contains an entire Linux computer inside,
> but I haven't seen any yet for USB. I expect they'd be prohibitive.
> I have one of the ethernet ones sitting here on my desk soldered to
> a PC board.
>
> Some of the end devices come with USB cables but have a regular
> serial cable available as well. If this is what you're talking
> about and one can hook up the GPS to another "dumb" device like an
> APRS TNC to receive serial NMEA sentences, then the device can be
> used for general-purpose APRS.

>
> If the device _only_ has USB access to the NMEA sentences, or
> requires another program running on a PC in order to make NMEA
> sentences available at a simulated COM port, then the device has
> very limited uses in APRS: Namely running on a Windows laptop along
> with the comm-port program plus an APRS program talking to that
> simulated port.
>
> So, can this device be used with a serial cable to feed NMEA serial
> sentences to another dumb device, without a PC or USB being
> involved? I'll be happy to add it to the table if it can do this,
> but I need verification that it would work. I didn't even see the
> serial cable option on their website.
>
> --
> Curt, WE7U. APRS Client Comparisons: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
> "Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
> "Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
> "The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
>

344. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS-compatible GPS'es

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-06-30 19:26:35 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 334 Message: 344

I can't find my login, but you could add the Foretrex
101 to that list. It supports waypoint display (radio
to GPS). Doesn't have a Compass, the connector is a
bit 'finicky' is the best I could describe it.

John

_____
Yahoo! Mail is the world's favourite email. Don't settle for less, sign up for
your free account today
http://uk.rd.yahoo.com/evt=44106/*http://uk.docs.yahoo.com/mail/winter07.html

345. Re: Radio cable requests

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-17 20:06:34 UTC
From: Greg
Topic: 322 Message: 345

Hello Scott: I know it's been 5/6 weeks since you've posted this but
have you placed your order or do you have any HT1000 cables left over???

Thanks, Greg, n5aor

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "'Scott Miller'" <scott@...> wrote:
>
> My supply of standard speaker-mic cables is running low and I'm ordering
> another batch from the factory in China. I'm also getting some Kenwood
> types this time, since I've had a lot of requests for those. The same
> factory also produces about two dozen other types of cables,
including a lot
> of Motorola varieties.
>
> Last time I had to get Motorola cables for the local SAR team's GP68
> handhelds, they were about $20 each from a Motorola dealer. I think
the big
> screw-on types are even more expensive. If anyone out there has
requests
> for particular cables, let me know and I'll add some to the order if
there's
> enough demand to justify it.
>
> These will be plain 1-meter cables, uncoiled, with a black PVC
jacket and
> stripped and tinned leads, suitable for building tracker cables or
whatever.
> Let me know your requests soon, as I'm trying to get an order placed
in the
> next few days. My last shipment has lasted about a year, so it's
not likely
> I'll reorder again soon.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>

346. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: Radio cable requests

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-17 20:09:54 UTC
From: 'Scott Miller'
Topic: 322 Message: 346

The shipment is in the country, but I won't have it until probably next week. I'll post a note when it arrives.

Scott
N1VG

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Greg
> Sent: Tuesday, July 17, 2007 1:07 PM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: Radio cable requests
>
> Hello Scott: I know it's been 5/6 weeks since you've posted this but
> have you placed your order or do you have any HT1000 cables
> left over???
>
> Thanks, Greg, n5aor
>
>
>
>
> --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "'Scott Miller'" <scott@...> wrote:
> >
> > My supply of standard speaker-mic cables is running low and
> I'm ordering
> > another batch from the factory in China. I'm also getting
> some Kenwood
> > types this time, since I've had a lot of requests for
> those. The same
> > factory also produces about two dozen other types of cables,
> including a lot
> > of Motorola varieties.
> >
> > Last time I had to get Motorola cables for the local SAR team's GP68
> > handhelds, they were about $20 each from a Motorola dealer. I think
> the big
> > screw-on types are even more expensive. If anyone out there has
> requests
> > for particular cables, let me know and I'll add some to the order if
> there's
> > enough demand to justify it.
> >
> > These will be plain 1-meter cables, uncoiled, with a black PVC
> jacket and

> > stripped and tinned leads, suitable for building tracker cables or
> whatever.
> > Let me know your requests soon, as I'm trying to get an order placed
> in the
> > next few days. My last shipment has lasted about a year, so it's
> not likely
> > I'll reorder again soon.
> >
> > Thanks,
> >
> > Scott
> > N1VG
> >
>
>
>
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>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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347. Backpack w/ GPS Antenna?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-19 06:48:20 UTC
From: Greg
Topic: 347 Message: 347

Does anyone know who made the backpack with the GPS on top of the short pole in the picture that we all see when we come to the group page???

Greg

348. Re: [SAR_APRS] Backpack w/ GPS Antenna?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-19 15:10:17 UTC
From: Michael A Heil
Topic: 347 Message: 348

I will see if I can find the source again. I got the image through a search on the Internet. It came from an industrial supplier that caters to surveyors.

Mike Heil
K6MAH

Greg <kd5mno@...> wrote:
Does anyone know who made the backpack with the GPS on top of the short pole in the picture that we all see when we come to the group page???

Greg

349. Re: [SAR_APRS] Backpack w/ GPS Antenna?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-19 17:25:06 UTC
From: Michael A Heil
Topic: 347 Message: 349

Here is a link to the backlpack shown in the Group page:

http://www.prairie.mb.ca/backpack.htm

Here is another example from a different manufacturer:

http://www.southernphoto.com/view_item.asp?SKU_GP=1175

Mike

Greg <kd5mno@...> wrote:
Does anyone know who made the backpack with the GPS on top of the
short pole in the picture that we all see when we come to the group
page???

Greg

350. Re: Backpack w/ GPS Antenna?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-20 05:11:00 UTC
From: Greg
Topic: 347 Message: 350

Thanks for the info Mike, I appreciate it greatly.

Greg

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Michael A Heil <maheil@...> wrote:
>
> Here is a link to the backlpack shown in the Group page:
>
> http://www.prairie.mb.ca/backpack.htm
>
> Here is another example from a different manufacturer:
>
> http://www.southernphoto.com/view_item.asp?SKU_GP=1175
>
> Mike
>
>
> Greg <kd5mno@...> wrote:
> Does anyone know who made the backpack with the GPS on top
of the
> short pole in the picture that we all see when we come to the group
> page???
>
> Greg
>

351. 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-22 17:59:38 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 351 Message: 351

Hi,

I posted a photo of our soon-to-be-released 8 Watt Micro-Trak transmitter in the photo section. Essentially, this combines a Micro-Trak 300 with an 8 Watt amplifier. The board measure 1 X 4.7 inches, and has variable output power. The basic unit weighs about one ounce. The MT-8000 uses a standard TinyTrak3 controller, so programing and operations will be familiar to many of you. I designed the high power unit especially for SAR op's. I hope to have testing completed next week and the devices in Byonics hands shortly thereafter. Your comments and ideas are invited.

Allen R. Lord
KG6HXO
Y222
VHS Products

352. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-22 20:40:57 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 352

Cool. What's the price? Power consumption?

Scott
N1VG

vhsproducts wrote:
> Hi,
>
> I posted a photo of our soon-to-be-released 8 Watt Micro-Trak
> transmitter in the photo section. Essentially, this combines a Micro-
> Trak 300 with an 8 Watt amplifier. The board measure 1 X 4.7 inches,
> and has variable output power. The basic unit weighs about one ounce.
> The MT-8000 uses a standard TinyTrak3 controller, so programing and
> operations will be familiar to many of you. I designed the high power
> unit especially for SAR op's. I hope to have testing completed next
> week and the devices in Byonics hands shortly thereafter. Your comments
> and ideas are invited.
>
> Allen R. Lord
> KG6HXO
> Y222
> VHS Products
>
>
>
>
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>

353. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-22 21:04:52 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 353

Scott,

We have not set a price yet, but it should be on par with what a Micro-Trak and a Micro-Amp cost combined. The plan for now is to sell it as an assembled board, since it has a couple of very small SMT capacitors on the board. Byon will set the final retail price., but I am guestimating $150.00.

At 12 volts, it draws about an Amp on transmit, and it seems from preliminary testing that it will run down at least as low as 9 volts, (with significantly lower output) and as high as 13.6 volts. At 13.6 Volts, it can actually exceed 10 Watts. The RF MOSFET module does not have a heat-sink on it, but it is fine for intermittent and brief packets. My guess is that SAR people will mount the RF module to the enclosure for added heat sinking anyway, but it does not really need it. I hope all is well with you!

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

354. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-22 23:37:33 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 351 Message: 354
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

355. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 00:22:53 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 355

Tom,

The Micro-Trak 8000 is a whole different animal! The Crystal -controlled 8 Watt unit will cost less than the 1/4 Watt Frequency agile unit, weigh half as much, and have half the footprint.

Frequency entry for the frequency agile version as you mention, will be done in a special version of TinyTrack3 Config. You will be able to program independent parameters for both configuration screens, including frequency and all the other TinyTrak functions. Byon had to develop new versions of both the configuration software and the TT3 Firmware, and it works great so far. We will be making a number of Beta versions available soon.

The frequency agile unit is just about good to go as a beta product. I will post photos and a draft manual on this site ASAP. The Beta version will have 1/4 Watt output, but if the synthesizer can handle it, expect a high power version of the frequency agile unit too.

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

356. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 00:33:10 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 356

Tom,

FYI: Frequency agile manual posted!

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

357. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 00:37:54 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 351 Message: 357
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

358. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 00:50:04 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 358

Does it use the same transmitter module? I thought those things were
crystal controlled.

Scott
N1VG

Tom Hayward wrote:
> Wonderful! I'd like to see what the frequency-agile beta looks like on a
> spectrum analyzer with the 8w amp (and without for that matter).
>
> Tom KD7LXL
>
> On 7/22/07, * CaptALord@... <mailto:CaptALord@...>*
> <CaptALord@... <mailto:CaptALord@...>> wrote:
>
> Tom,
>
> The Micro-Trak 8000 is a whole different animal! The Crystal
> -controlled 8 Watt unit will cost less than the 1/4 Watt Frequency
> agile unit, weigh half as much, and have half the footprint.
>
> Frequency entry for the frequency agile version as you mention, will
> be done in a special version of TinyTrack3 Config. You will be able
> to program independent parameters for both configuration screens,
> including frequency and all the other TinyTrak functions. Byon had
> to develop new versions of both the configuration software and the
> TT3 Firmware, and it works great so far. We will be making a number
> of Beta versions available soon.
>
> The frequency agile unit is just about good to go as a beta
> product. I will post photos and a draft manual on this site ASAP.
> The Beta version will have 1/4 Watt output, but if the synthesizer
> can handle it, expect a high power version of the frequency agile
> unit too.
>
> Allen
> VHS
>
> --
>
>
>

359. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 00:51:17 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 359

Cool, I look forward to seeing one in operation. I've got my own 6-watt frequency agile transceiver/tracker (plus digi, TNC, etc) combination in the works, but it's not going to compete at that price point.

Scott
N1VG

CaptALord@... wrote:
> Tom,
>
> The Micro-Trak 8000 is a whole different animal! The Crystal -controlled
> 8 Watt unit will cost less than the 1/4 Watt Frequency agile unit, weigh
> half as much, and have half the footprint.
>
> Frequency entry for the frequency agile version as you mention, will be
> done in a special version of TinyTrack3 Config. You will be able to
> program independent parameters for both configuration screens, including
> frequency and all the other TinyTrak functions. Byon had to develop new
> versions of both the configuration software and the TT3 Firmware, and it
> works great so far. We will be making a number of Beta versions
> available soon.
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> The frequency agile unit is just about good to go as a beta product. I
> will post photos and a draft manual on this site ASAP. The Beta version
> will have 1/4 Watt output, but if the synthesizer can handle it, expect
> a high power version of the frequency agile unit too.
>
> Allen
> VHS
>
>
>
> ---
> Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com
> <http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour/?ncid=AOLAOF00020000000982>.
>

360. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 00:53:42 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 360

Tom,

I did try the agile unit with the Micro-Amp and was able to get a fairly clean signal (considering that the gear was assembled with duct tape, paper clips, etc) I cheated though, because I used a separate power supply for each device. It only is a fair test when we can use one common power supply for the whole enchilada.

The crystal controlled version with the amp is very, very spectrally pure, and that my long term goal for the Frequency agile high power unit. Now that I have been able to build a low cost amplifier that works well, product deve lopment time for the next version should not be too long. I know that I have been promising the frequency agile version for a long time, but it is really past the "vaporware" stage and actually exists!

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

361. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 01:00:04 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 361

Scott,

No, its a completely different RF section using a synthesized module with its own little brain (and therefore naturally, more expensive) The single channel RF module is 1.7 X .60, the Frequency Agile unit is 2.3 X 1.5, and takes a bit more to make it work.

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

362. Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 14:18:32 UTC
From: Greg
Topic: 351 Message: 362

Hello All:

Please forgive my ignorance, I come looking for knowledge and understanding. As I understand, the MicroTrak 300 is a 300mw transmitter and TT3 together and costs $105 built (or less if you build it yourself, BIY). Then you can add the MicroAmp to boost tx pwr to 8 watts for another $50. Both of these units need to be in a container of some kind which will cost more time and money. Or you can get the MT8000 after beta testing for what has been predicted to be about $150(about the same amount as the separate units), or before if your lucky.

Seems to me, a TT3/TT3plus(TT4 coming soon) for $47 or so (or less if you BIY)and a 2m HT of your choice for $100 to $200 dollars with 5w/7w tx pwr is a solid package for similar money but less time is required to get your tracker package up and operational. Also, it seems much easier to change freqs. on the HT set up.

The only benefit I see to the MicroTrak 300/MicroAmp combo or the MT8000 is the small size and a better ability to customize those units if necessary.

Also, it seems(I also lack knowledge in this area too)that most SAR teams will be looking for plug and play kits with a minimum of hassles(no muss/no fuss), not to mention if you need a second radio in an emergency, you have a 2m HT in your tracker.

Now don't get me wrong, I LOVE the all the Byonics products and they have my full support. I have a TinyTrack now. I'm looking forward to making a portable tracker for myself and more for my club. I'm really looking forward to the TT4(based on what I heard).

I like the Ohio Valley SAR portable trackers but a I think they should be in a more water resistant container with the ability to use external antennas, of course that would cost more money.

What I think would make a nice package, although it wouldn't be usable in some locations/situations, would be a backpack with the GPS on a pole or at least as close to the top of the pack as possible(yes, just like the backpack on the main page) and a 2m halfwave antenna on the other side of the pack. I know you have to design the package for being in thick woods so the pole for the GPS wouldn't work and neither would a stiff 2m antenna. What if you could tuck the GPS antenna in tight or put it on a bracket a couple of inches behind the head. Then use a 2m antenna that is similar to a tape measure. Something that will stand up straight but will bend easily when knocked around.

Here are my ideas. What do y'all think.

Greg, n5aor

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "vhsproducts" <CaptALord@...> wrote:
>
> Hi,
>
> I posted a photo of our soon-to-be-released 8 Watt Micro-Trak
> transmitter in the photo section. Essentially, this combines a Micro-
> Trak 300 with an 8 Watt amplifier. The board measure 1 X 4.7 inches,
> and has variable output power. The basic unit weighs about one ounce.
> The MT-8000 uses a standard TinyTrak3 controller, so programing and
> operations will be familiar to many of you. I designed the high power
> unit especially for SAR op's. I hope to have testing completed next
> week and the devices in Byonics hands shortly thereafter. Your comments
> and ideas are invited.
>
> Allen R. Lord
> KG6HXO
> Y222
> VHS Products
>

363. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 15:04:50 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 363

This is the problem I've always had with trying to put together a low-cost integrated tracker - you just can't do it for a price that'll compete with a low-end HT.

Check out the ZARES ZPak at http://homepages.slingshot.co.nz/~c_day/index.html. It's an OpenTracker that fits in a battery pack for the HTs they import. I'm not sure what the price is on the radio, but this sort of thing can certainly be done for the same price range as a fully custom board. There are people here in the US building OT boards into refurbished commercial rigs, too. Now that I've got the SMT OT1+ board available I expect to see more of that - I know of a couple of projects in the works.

Anyway, for my own I decided I just wasn't going to be able to compete on price with the level of features I want, so I'm not going to, unless you're comparing it to a TH-D7A maybe. The XCVR (136-162 MHz, 6 watts) and Tracker2 (tracker/tnc/digi) fit in a metal case the size of a pack of cigarettes.

I'm hoping to come up with a package that includes batteries and will fit in one of the miniature Pelican cases, but I'm still working on that. Making the batteries field-replaceable is a big deal for SAR.

I'm aiming for about $350, at least for the radio/TNC combo - I'm not sure on the cost for a packaged unit yet.

There will also be a satellite version that'd be useful for remote digis. It'll have a simplified codebase (no KISS, no tracking or waypoint output) to reduce the number of things that can go wrong, and it'll have the ability to receive complete firmware updates over the air. The regular T2 will only let you batch a few bytes at a time.

I ought to have something to show off this September at DCC if anyone's coming.

Scott
N1VG

Greg wrote:
> Hello All:
>
> Please forgive my ignorance, I come looking for knowledge and
> understanding. As I understand, the MicroTrak 300 is a 300mw
> transmitter and TT3 together and costs $105 built (or less if you
> build it yourself, BIY). Then you can add the MicroAmp to boost tx
> pwr to 8 watts for another $50. Both of these units need to be in a
> container of some kind which will cost more time and money. Or you

> can get the MT8000 after beta testing for what has been predicted to
> be about $150(about the same amount as the separate units), or before
> if your lucky.
>
> Seems to me, a TT3/TT3plus(TT4 coming soon) for $47 or so (or less if
> you BIY)and a 2m HT of your choice for $100 to $200 dollars with 5w/7w
> tx pwr is a solid package for similar money but less time is required
> to get your tracker package up and operational. Also, it seems much
> easier to change freqs. on the HT set up.
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> The only benefit I see to the MicroTrak 300/MicroAmp combo or the
> MT8000 is the small size and a better ability to customize those units
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> Also, it seems(I also lack knowledge in this area too)that most SAR
> teams will be looking for plug and play kits with a minimum of
> hassles(no muss/no fuss), not to mention if you need a second radio in
> an emergency, you have a 2m HT in your tracker.
>
> Now don't get me wrong, I LOVE the all the Byonics products and they
> have my full support. I have a TinyTrack now. I'm looking forward to
> making a portable tracker for myself and more for my club. I'm really
> looking forward to the TT4(based on what I heard).
>
> I like the Ohio Valley SAR portable trackers but a I think they should
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> being in thick woods so the pole for the GPS wouldn't work and neither
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> tight or put it on a bracket a couple of inches behind the head. Then
> use a 2m antenna that is similar to a tape measure. Something that
> will stand up straight but will bend easily when knocked around.
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> Here are my ideas. What do y'all think.
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> Greg, n5aor
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>
> --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "vhsproducts" <CaptALord@...> wrote:
>> Hi,
>>
>> I posted a photo of our soon-to-be-released 8 Watt Micro-Trak

>> transmitter in the photo section. Essentially, this combines a Micro-
>> Trak 300 with an 8 Watt amplifier. The board measure 1 X 4.7 inches,
>> and has variable output power. The basic unit weighs about one ounce.
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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364. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 15:46:20 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 364

Greg,

Your points are well made. For someone that wants to put together a system with a minimum of fuss, a Kenwood radio and a GPS unit are just the ticket. The downside of course is cost, weight, programming complexity, battery issues, and (allegations at least) of a lack of robustness to the Kenwood. A TinyTrak3 + and an inexpensive handheld will bring you well into to the $200.00 price point (maybe less with a really cheap hand-held) The downsides are lots of cables, multiple battery packs. poor power consumption (due to transceiver current draw) and lots of controls to manipulate and/or be inadvertently controlled, in the field. All of these problems are manageable. The Micro-Trak downsides are that it requires some technical skill to enclose (although High Altitude Balloon people sometimes just throw the board into their payload box), and it is a transmit-only device. The Micro-Trak units are best for those people who need to "roll their own", and want to optimize battery, enclosure, and other parameters for their particular application. It is by no means a one-size fits all unit. As far as I am aware, it is still the best option for those people who may need a two ounce tracking package. I built the Micro-Trak 8000 because SAR people asked me to do so, so presumably there are people out there who will want them. (I hope)

Given limitless resources, I would build an FCC/NTIA approvable handheld with a built in display GPS and smart digipeating. That's probably not going to happen....What is going to happen, is that we will build a Micro-Trak transceiver around the TT4, which will provide (when suitable software is developed) tracking, digipeating, and position uploads to GPS display units, in an integrated package. The idea being that every field resource will act as a store and forward device for every other unit in the field, allowing mobile, portable and "drop box" tracker/digipeaters that are transparent to the users in the field. Programming systems after you have already deployed has proven to be a non-starter....This project is on standby while software developments and beta testing continue for the TinyTrak4. In the meantime, we will release a programmable, frequency agile Micro-Trak unit to help fill some of the other requirements of SAR and Amateur users. I do appreciate your frank appraisal!

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

365. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 17:07:38 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 351 Message: 365

My main comments on RF trackers for APRS is that they should have the capability for user selection of operating on at least 2 frequencies: There are 3 frequencies of interest in the USA:

144.39 Continent wide APRS freq
144.34 Balloon tracking freq (if not 144.39)
144.99 APRS (+600) for dedicated trackers

Notes:

144.34 - The 144.34 frequency should never be used routinely, since it is the national FM voice calling frequency for amateur TV (ATV)operations. It is OK to use it for SHORT one-time, few-hour ATV and APRS Balloons, since it helps ALERT those monitoring it about a flight in progress. For this same reason, it should never be used routinely and terrestrially, since it drives monitoring ATV'ers nuts.

144.99. If available in your area, is a good dedicated alternate APRS input channel to give local APRS users priority over out-of-area packets arriving in the area. No digipeating outputs should occur on this channel. This is an input channel to allow low power tracking devices to get into the APRS system without colliding with all the other traffic on 144.39.

Just my 2 cents..
Bob, WB4APR

366. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 17:22:43 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 351 Message: 366

Let me amend this.
I'm not saying they have to have a switch or be dual freq
capable, but they should be orderable on one of these 3. I
understand the problem of having to stock the non-standard freqs
so the single 144.39 is OK too. But for users that need
perfomrnace in busy areas, I think the 144.99 will become more
and more useful for serious APRS specific applications....

> -----Original Message-----
> [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Robert Bruninga
> Sent: Monday, July 23, 2007 1:08 PM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter
>
> My main comments on RF trackers for APRS is that they should
> have the capability for user selection of operating on at
least
> 2 frequencies: There are 3 frequencies of interest in the
USA:
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> since it is the national FM voice calling frequency for
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> alternate APRS input channel to give local APRS users priority
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> outputs should occur on this channel. This is an input
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> without colliding with all the other traffic on 144.39.
>

> Just my 2 cents..
> Bob, WB4APR
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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367. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 17:34:22 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 367

Bob,

Frankly, I have had more call for Australian frequencies than the low power frequency (144.340), so I have not been able to justify the rather substantial investment in producing runs of crystal-controlled units on secondary frequencies. (We do make a EU version on 144.800, but this is not greatly appreciated as a U.S. frequency....) I think our programmable unit, the Micro-Trak 200 FA (and you will see a draft manual for it in the files section) should address all those other frequencies (between 144 and 147 MHZ). I have high hopes that an 8 Watt version will also give us satellite access in the future.

I have been working on a low-cost Micro-Trak design for a while, with quick-swap frequencies and a 3 day turn around time for any desired frequency. So far it is just suitable for a fox transmitter, since I have not been able to make it clean enough for 1200 Baud data. (works great as a 300 Baud transmitter!) if/when I find the time and solution to the technical problems, I will produce low cost transmitter based on the simple design. I will post a photo of the experimental version to this site.

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

368. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 17:55:22 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 351 Message: 368

On Mon, 23 Jul 2007 CaptALord@... wrote:

> The Micro-Trak units are best for those
> people who need to "roll their own", and want to optimize battery, enclosure,
> and other parameters for their particular application. It is by no means a
> one-size fits all unit. As far as I am aware, it is still the best option for
> those people who may need a two ounce tracking package. I built the Micro-Trak
> 8000 because SAR people asked me to do so, so presumably there are people
> out there who will want them. (I hope)

Even though I'd like a package that can pre-emptively digipeat using
the WIDEn-N flooding protocol, I can see a use for the transmit-only
very lightweight units as well in our county: The technical teams
that can't stand any useless ounces of weight such as the mountain
rescue teams.

> Given limitless resources, I would build an FCC/NTIA approvable handheld
> with a built in display GPS and smart digipeating. That's probably not going to
> happen....What is going to happen, is that we will build a Micro-Trak
> transceiver around the TT4, which will provide (when suitable software is
> developed) tracking, digipeating, and position uploads to GPS display units, in an
> integrated package.

Are you tied to the TT's? If it could be hooked to a TT4 or a
Tracker2 or OT1+, it'd be more useful in my book. The Tracker2
already has firmware which can do SARn-N pre-emptive digipeating.

> The idea being that every field resource will act as a
> store and forward device for every other unit in the field, allowing mobile,
> portable and "drop box" tracker/digipeaters that are transparent to the users in
> the field.

Exactly my goal.

> Programming systems after you have already deployed has proven to
> be a non-starter....This project is on standby while software developments
> and beta testing continue for the TinyTrak4. In the meantime, we will release a
> programmable, frequency agile Micro-Trak unit to help fill some of the other
> requirements of SAR and Amateur users. I do appreciate your frank appraisal!

Go after Tracker2 compatibility and you won't have to put this
project on hold until the TT4 firmware is ready. ;-)

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U

The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

369. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 19:18:40 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 369

Curt,

I am married to Byonics. Scott's products are great, and I love many of his features that are not currently supported by the TinyTrak, but Byon is the big dog in the park, and his products sell inter-galactically!
I would love to combine my ELT receiver with an Open Trac and place them as APRS beacons on Mountaintops and airports. This would let us rule out 99% of all ELT activations within a few seconds of the "panic" signal hitting an I-Gate. The TinyTrak can't read an analog voltage (Signal strength). Neither the Open Trac or the TinyTrak 4 support APRS RDF at this point, so I will wait and see. Anyone interested in sponsoring their local Airport or mountain top with an ELT telemetry unit?

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

370. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 19:28:21 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 351 Message: 370

Allen, thanks...

> Frankly, I have had more call for Australian
> frequencies than the low power frequency (144.340),
> so I have not been able to justify the rather
> substantial investment in producing runs
> of crystal-controlled units on secondary frequencies.

I understand completely. On a side note, Can I ask that you
not refer to 144.34 as "the low power frequency" but instead
speak of it as "the national ATV calling frequency" which it has
been since the 1970's. Again, I am trying to make sure that all
APRS operators in the USA are aware of what the frequency is so
that we do not create a nightmare of frequency missuse...

Thanks
Bob, Wb4APR

(We
> do make a EU version on 144.800, but this is not greatly
> appreciated as a U.S. frequency....) I think our programmable
> unit, the Micro-Trak 200 FA (and you will see a draft manual
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> <http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour/?ncid=AOLAOF000200

00000982> .
>
>

371. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 19:40:35 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 351 Message: 371

ELT? New generation or old generation?

The old generation on 121.5 MHz will no longer be monitored by satellites on 2/1/2009. The new generation of ELT's are already being phased in and in full operation. The new generation will not require any directional finding since they will either give you a GPS location or can be triangulated down to a very small search area.

For info, see: http://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/121phaseout.pdf

So the way I see it, I would not invest any time or money into obsolete systems.

Herb, KB7UVC
NW APRS Group, West Sound Coordinator
Our WEB Site: http://www.nwaprs.info

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of CaptALord@...
Sent: Monday, July 23, 2007 12:19 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Curt,

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Allen
VHS

372. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 19:44:10 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 372

I was hoping I'd be able to tune the RX module I'm using down to 121.5 and get a usable signal out of the RSSI pin, but I'm not so sure that's going to work. I went around in circles with their engineers for awhile and shelved the idea for the time being. Probably wouldn't have been as sensitive as a dedicated ELT receiver anyway.

Let me know what you need for RDF support and I'll do what I can. Yeah, you probably told me before, but I've had a lot of projects going. I'm getting through them, albeit more slowly than I'd like. This past weekend was pretty much non-stop coding and got a lot of items off the to-do list. I do remember looking into support for Doppler RDF, but the sticky part there is that you need to know what direction you're going to know the absolute direction of the bearing. Omni RDF shouldn't be a problem.

As for Byon being the big dog... well, the head start he got in the market, and the name recognition that comes with it, is the biggest obstacle. It's a little frustrating. I sell a lot of kits (to more than 40 countries so far) and IMHO my kits are more capable, built with better quality parts, and are generally less expensive as well, but I'm fighting an uphill battle on the marketing side.

Oh well. In the end, it just drives me to continually improve my stuff. But as a technical type first and foremost, and not a businessman, it's a painful lesson that simply having the superior product doesn't mean that people will realize that and buy it.

Scott
N1VG

CaptALord@... wrote:
> Curt,
>
> I am married to Byonics. Scott's products are great, and I love many of
> his features that are not currently supported by the TinyTrak, but Byon
> is the big dog in the park, and his products sell inter-galactically!
> I would love to combine my ELT receiver with an Open Trac and place them
> as APRS beacons on Mountaintops and airports. This would let us rule out
> 99% of all ELT activations within a few seconds of the "panic" signal
> hitting an I-Gate. The TinyTrak can't read an analog voltage (Signal
> strength). Neither the Open Trac or the TinyTrak 4 support APRS RDF at
> this point, so I will wait and see. Anyone interested in sponsoring
> their local Airport or mountain top with an ELT telemetry unit?
>
> Allen
> VHS

>
>
>
> ---
> Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com
> <http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour/?ncid=AOLAOF00020000000982>.
>

373. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 19:50:28 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 373

It's about freaking time. I'm sure most of us have spent way too much time tracking ELTs that could have been shut down immediately if they'd even had a simple CW ID. How long before all private planes are equipped, though?

And WHY didn't they put an ID on the first generation? Even back in the '70s it wouldn't have been THAT hard to do. We used to build CW ID'ers with a NAND gate for an oscillator and a 128-bit shift register for the memory. Grrr...

Scott
N1VG

Herb Gerhardt wrote:
> ELT? New generation or old generation?
>
> The old generation on 121.5 MHz will no longer be monitored by
> satellites on 2/1/2009. The new generation of ELT's are already being
> phased in and in full operation. The new generation will not require
> any directional finding since they will either give you a GPS location
> or can be triangulated down to a very small search area.
>
> For info, see: http://www.sarsat.noaa.gov/121phaseout.pdf
>
> So the way I see it, I would not invest any time or money into obsolete
> systems.
>
>
> Herb, KB7UVC
> NW APRS Group, West Sound Coordinator
> Our WEB Site: http://www.nwaprs.info <http://www.nwaprs.info/>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> *From:* SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]*On Behalf Of *CaptALord@...
> *Sent:* Monday, July 23, 2007 12:19 PM
> *To:* SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter
>
> Curt,
>
> I am married to Byonics. Scott's products are great, and I love many
> of his features that are not currently supported by the TinyTrak,
> but Byon is the big dog in the park, and his products sell
> inter-galactically!
> I would love to combine my ELT receiver with an Open Trac and place

> them as APRS beacons on Mountaintops and airports. This would let us
> rule out 99% of all ELT activations within a few seconds of the
> "panic" signal hitting an I-Gate. The TinyTrak can't read an analog
> voltage (Signal strength). Neither the Open Trac or the TinyTrak 4
> support APRS RDF at this point, so I will wait and see. Anyone
> interested in sponsoring their local Airport or mountain top with an
> ELT telemetry unit?
>
> Allen
> VHS
>
>

374. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 20:05:51 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 374

> strength). Neither the Open Trac or the TinyTrak 4 support APRS RDF at
> this point, so I will wait and see. Anyone interested in sponsoring
> their local Airport or mountain top with an ELT telemetry unit?

Allen,

I just looked at the APRS spec again, and if the DFS extension is all you need, let me know what voltage range you need for the RSSI input and how that relates to S-units, and I can get a prototype ready shortly.

The ADC inputs on the OT1+ are all 0-5 volts with 10-bit resolution. Will your signal be fairly constant, or will it need some averaging applied in software?

The thing that annoys me about the APRS Omni DF spec is that there's no (automated) way to specify WHAT you're DF'ing. If everyone deployed fixed DF stations on a regular basis, you'd never be able to sort them out. Fortunately they're rare enough I don't think it'll be a problem.

Scott
N1VG

375. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 20:28:19 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 375

In a message dated 7/23/2007 12:27:29 P.M. Pacific Standard Time,
wb4apr@... writes:

Can I ask that you
not refer to 144.34 as "the low power frequency" but instead
speak of it as "the national ATV calling frequency"

Roger that

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at
http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

376. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 20:44:00 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 376

In a message dated 7/23/2007 12:43:11 P.M. Pacific Standard Time,
hgerhardt@... writes:

ELT? New generation or old generation?

The old generation on 121.5 MHz will no longer be monitored by satellites on
2/1/2009. The new generation of ELT's are already being phased in and in
full operation. The new generation will not require any directional finding
since they will either give you a GPS location or can be triangulated down to
a very small search area.

Herb,

You are right in that the 121.5 signal will not be monitored by the SARSAT
system, but the 121.5 transmission will still emit from new gen ELT's to allow
SAR people to DF them in a local area. As far as the new generation, using
406 MHZ data bursts, I don't think the proof is in regarding their ability to
hit satellites in every possible attitude that they may end up in (inverted,
half submerged and burned to a crisp are always likely possibilities)
Circular error probability is still enormous, and DF'ing the Data burst is not
terribly feasible. On ELT's using GPS data in the data stream, the GPS data is
only as good as it's view of the sky. If an aircraft's ELT is activated when it
clips a mountaintop, and sends what appears to be a good fix, it could be off
by many miles, since the aircraft may travel for quite a ways (I am not done
crashing yet....) ELT direction finding on 121.5 is far from obsolete. Even
personal ELT's require ground teams to go in on foot to locate the survivor
using conventional DF techniques in many instances.

Having a 121.5 receiver, slaved to alert over the APRS network when a signal
is detected, would be very useful in localizing accidental ELT activations.
Having the same unit on a mountaintop with an omni-directional antenna would
provided tremendous signal intelligence for A/C and ground teams searching a
wide area, especially if the signal activations are archived, allowing a post
facto investigation into an ELT activation or distress call. All things well
within the purview of omni-directional direction finding techniques already
supported by APRS.

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at
http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

377. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 20:51:30 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 377

Scott,

My ELT receivers produce a signal between 2 and 5 volts representing 0 to full strength signal detection. Ideally, the APRS encoder will detect at a variable threshold and switch symbols, while reporting the RSSI voltage in the format required for circular DF display. With a fixed GPS position encoded into the unit, and infrequent check-in's I don't think these would cause any traffic problems. I see airports, mountains, and marinas as being the best installation locations, but I would probably just go slap one up at my local FBO to beta test the concept. There are enough ELT tests to know if it would work.

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

378. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 20:56:56 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 378

Ok, so is it safe to map 2 volts to S0 and 5 volts to S9? The symbol thing can be done through profile switching.

I can send you a freebie for testing. Would you rather have a through-hole board (with the DB9 connectors) or a surface mount board with header pins?

Scott
N1VG

CaptALord@... wrote:
> Scott,
>
> My ELT receivers produce a signal between 2 and 5 volts representing 0
> to full strength signal detection. Ideally, the APRS encoder will detect
> at a variable threshold and switch symbols, while reporting the RSSI
> voltage in the format required for circular DF display. With a fixed GPS
> position encoded into the unit, and infrequent check-in's I don't think
> these would cause any traffic problems. I see airports, mountains, and
> marinas as being the best installation locations, but I would probably
> just go slap one up at my local FBO to beta test the concept. There are
> enough ELT tests to know if it would work.
>
> Allen
> VHS
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>
> ---
> Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com
> <http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour/?ncid=AOLAOF00020000000982>.
>

379. 8 Watt transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 20:56:06 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 379 Message: 379

FYI, I tested the 8 Watt unit today using GPS sim and it screams! If you google my call sign, you should see it off the coast of Ghana....(the default GPS simulator location.....)

Allen
VHS
KG6HXO

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

380. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 21:21:40 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 351 Message: 380

> The thing that annoys me about the APRS Omni
> DF spec is that there's no (automated) way to
> specify WHAT you're DF'ing.

Actually there is...

The DFS can be applied to a STATION report or to an OBJECT. It was intended that the OBJECT name would be the thing you are Dfing. It could be a FREQ, or a Balloon or a RX site... just about anything.

The spec was not cleanly written and is wrongly interpreted that there is a difference between a STATION and an OBJECT. But that is not how APRS was designed. There is not supposed to be any difference between an OBJECT and a STATION. That is, anything that a STATION can do, an OBJECT can also do. And vice versa. So an object can have a WX report and an OBJECT can do a DF or DFS report.

Some clone software makes too much of a distinction between STATIONS and OBJECTS and therefore misses a lot of what APRS can do.

Hope that helps.

In this auto-DF system, my suggestion has always been that unknown signals are given the OBJECT name of the FREQUENCY being monitored and in the case of multiple RX sites, then they they also have to be included in the object name. Or something like that...

Bob, Wb4APR

If everyone deployed
> fixed DF stations on a regular basis, you'd never be able to
> sort them
> out. Fortunately they're rare enough I don't think it'll be
> a problem.
>
> Scott
> N1VG
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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381. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 21:26:15 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 381

Yeah, but I don't think any of that does any good if the software doesn't have a way to distinguish which ones you want to plot. Of course, support for omni DF'ing is pretty rare anyway.

I wonder if any of the Garmins are able to plot proximity waypoints as areas.. that'd be pretty cool...

Scott
N1VG

Robert Bruninga wrote:
>> The thing that annoys me about the APRS Omni
>> DF spec is that there's no (automated) way to
>> specify WHAT you're DF'ing.
>
> Actually there is...
>
> The DFS can be applied to a STATION report or to an OBJECT. It
> was intended that the OBJECT name would be the thing you are
> Dfing. It could be a FREQ, or a Balloon or a RX site... just
> about anything.
>
> The spec was not cleanly written and is wrongly interpreted that
> there is a difference between a STATION and an OBJECT. But that
> is not how APRS was designed. There is not supposed to be any
> difference between an OBJECT and a STATION. That is, anything
> that a STATION can do, an OBJECT can also do. And vice versa.
> So an object can have a WX report and an OBJECT can do a DF or
> DFS report.
>
> Some clone software makes too much of a distinction between
> STATIONS and OBJECTS and therefore misses a lot of what APRS can
> do.
>
> Hope that helps.
>
> In this auto-DF system, my suggestion has always been that
> unknown signals are given the OBJECT name of the FREQUENCY being
> monitored and in the case of multiple RX sites, then they they
> also have to be included in the object name. Or something like
> that...
>
> Bob, Wb4APR
>
>
>

> If everyone deployed
>> fixed DF stations on a regular basis, you'd never be able to
>> sort them
>> out. Fortunately they're rare enough I don't think it'll be
>> a problem.
>>
>> Scott
>> N1VG
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382. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 22:03:58 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 382

Scott,

I think a thru hole unit would simplify my testing. Thanks!

Allen

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

383. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-23 22:27:59 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 351 Message: 383

> Yeah, but I don't think any of that does any
> good if the software doesn't have a way to
> distinguish which ones you want to plot. Of
> course, support for omni DF'ing is pretty rare anyway.

What you want to plot is all DFS reports on the same object
(usually this is "thee-same-frequency"). This will give you the
best picture for that object. And since the single common
element in all these reports is what-is-heard-on-frequency-X,
then by letting the object name INCLUDE the frequency X is the
deciding factor, and constitutes what all to plot at one time.

Bob, WB4APR

> I wonder if any of the Garmins are able to plot proximity
> waypoints as areas.. that'd be pretty cool...
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>
> Robert Bruninga wrote:
> >> The thing that annoys me about the APRS Omni
> >> DF spec is that there's no (automated) way to
> >> specify WHAT you're DF'ing.
> > >
> > > Actually there is...
> > >
> > > The DFS can be applied to a STATION report or to an OBJECT.
It
> > > was intended that the OBJECT name would be the thing you are
> > > Dfing. It could be a FREQ, or a Balloon or a RX site...
just
> > > about anything.
> > >
> > > The spec was not cleanly written and is wrongly interpreted
that
> > > there is a difference between a STATION and an OBJECT. But
that
> > > is not how APRS was designed. There is not supposed to be
any
> > > difference between an OBJECT and a STATION. That is,
anything
> > > that a STATION can do, an OBJECT can also do. And vice
versa.
> > > So an object can have a WX report and an OBJECT can do a DF
or

> > DFS report.
> >
> > Some clone software makes too much of a distinction between
> > STATIONS and OBJECTS and therefore misses a lot of what APRS
can
> > do.
> >
> > Hope that helps.
> >
> > In this auto-DF system, my suggestion has always been that
> > unknown signals are given the OBJECT name of the FREQUENCY
being
> > monitored and in the case of multiple RX sites, then they
they
> > also have to be included in the object name. Or something
like
> > that...
> >
> > Bob, Wb4APR
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> >
> > If everyone deployed
> >> fixed DF stations on a regular basis, you'd never be able
to
> >> sort them
> >> out. Fortunately they're rare enough I don't think it'll
be
> >> a problem.
> >>
> >> Scott
> >> N1VG
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384. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 09:40:30 UTC
From: Tapio Sokura
Topic: 351 Message: 384

Scott Miller wrote:
> I wonder if any of the Garmins are able to plot proximity waypoints as
> areas.. that'd be pretty cool...

At least current Garmin marine units draw a circle on the map screen around a proximity waypoint. The diameter of the circle is taken from the proximity range defined for that waypoint. I'm not sure about the handheld units, I guess it's possible there as well.

Tapio

385. Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 13:02:29 UTC
From: Greg
Topic: 351 Message: 385

Great info Scott(my middle name). Trouble is, a little of what you
said is over my head but don't try to explain in this forum. I have
enough friends that can fill in the blanks or if I have to I will
exchange phone numbers and we can do it over the phone.

BTW, your link didn't work, for me anyway.

You know, it seems to me that for the most part, Garmin has a usable
units in the Rhino portable line just not enough power, wrong freq.
ban(ham instead of GMRS/FRS), and no changeable antenna. I can't
believe HAM makers haven't made something yet that is at least close.

Greg, n5aor

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Scott Miller <scott@...> wrote:
>
> This is the problem I've always had with trying to put together a
> low-cost integrated tracker - you just can't do it for a price that'll
> compete with a low-end HT.
>
> Check out the ZARES ZPak at
> http://homepages.slingshot.co.nz/~c_day/index.html. It's an
OpenTracker
> that fits in a battery pack for the HTs they import. I'm not sure what
> the price is on the radio, but this sort of thing can certainly be done
> for the same price range as a fully custom board. There are people
here
> in the US building OT boards into refurbished commercial rigs, too.
Now
> that I've got the SMT OT1+ board available I expect to see more of that
> - I know of a couple of projects in the works.
>
> Anyway, for my own I decided I just wasn't going to be able to compete
> on price with the level of features I want, so I'm not going to, unless
> you're comparing it to a TH-D7A maybe. The XCVR (136-162 MHz, 6 watts)
> and Tracker2 (tracker/tnc/digi) fit in a metal case the size of a pack
> of cigarettes.
>
> I'm hoping to come up with a package that includes batteries and will
> fit in one of the miniature Pelican cases, but I'm still working on
> that. Making the batteries field-replaceable is a big deal for SAR.
>
> I'm aiming for about $350, at least for the radio/TNC combo - I'm not
> sure on the cost for a packaged unit yet.
>
> There will also be a satellite version that'd be useful for remote

> digis. It'll have a simplified codebase (no KISS, no tracking or
> waypoint output) to reduce the number of things that can go wrong, and
> it'll have the ability to receive complete firmware updates over the
> air. The regular T2 will only let you batch a few bytes at a time.
>
> I ought to have something to show off this September at DCC if anyone's
> coming.
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>
> Greg wrote:
> > Hello All:
> >
> > Please forgive my ignorance, I come looking for knowledge and
> > understanding. As I understand, the MicroTrak 300 is a 300mw
> > transmitter and TT3 together and costs $105 built (or less if you
> > build it yourself, BIY). Then you can add the MicroAmp to boost tx
> > pwr to 8 watts for another $50. Both of these units need to be in a
> > container of some kind which will cost more time and money. Or you
> > can get the MT8000 after beta testing for what has been predicted to
> > be about $150(about the same amount as the separate units), or before
> > if your lucky.
> >
> > Seems to me, a TT3/TT3plus(TT4 coming soon) for $47 or so (or less if
> > you BIY)and a 2m HT of your choice for $100 to $200 dollars with 5w/7w
> > tx pwr is a solid package for similar money but less time is required
> > to get your tracker package up and operational. Also, it seems much
> > easier to change freqs. on the HT set up.
> >
> > The only benefit I see to the MicroTrak 300/MicroAmp combo or the
> > MT8000 is the small size and a better ability to customize those units
> > if necessary.
> >
> > Also, it seems(I also lack knowledge in this area too)that most SAR
> > teams will be looking for plug and play kits with a minimum of
> > hassles(no muss/no fuss), not to mention if you need a second radio in
> > an emergency, you have a 2m HT in your tracker.
> >
> > Now don't get me wrong, I LOVE the all the Byonics products and they
> > have my full support. I have a TinyTrack now. I'm looking forward to
> > making a portable tracker for myself and more for my club. I'm really
> > looking forward to the TT4(based on what I heard).
> >
> > I like the Ohio Valley SAR portable trackers but a I think they should
> > be in a more water resistant container with the ability to use
> > external antennas, of course that would cost more money.
> >
> > What I think would make a nice package, although it wouldn't be usable
> > in some locations/situations, would be a backpack with the GPS on a

> > pole or at least as close to the top of the pack as possible(yes, just
> > like the backpack on the main page) and a 2m halfwave antenna on the
> > other side of the pack. I know you have to design the package for
> > being in thick woods so the pole for the GPS wouldn't work and neither
> > would a stiff 2m antenna. What if you could tuck the GPS antenna in
> > tight or put it on a bracket a couple of inches behind the head. Then
> > use a 2m antenna that is similar to a tape measure. Something that
> > will stand up straight but will bend easily when knocked around.
> >
> > Here are my ideas. What do y'all think.
> >
> > Greg, n5aor
> >
> >
> >
> >
> > --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "vhsproducts" <CaptALord@> wrote:
> >> Hi,
> >>
> >> I posted a photo of our soon-to-be-released 8 Watt Micro-Trak
> >> transmitter in the photo section. Essentially, this combines a
Micro-
> >> Trak 300 with an 8 Watt amplifier. The board measure 1 X 4.7 inches,
> >> and has variable output power. The basic unit weighs about one
ounce.
> >> The MT-8000 uses a standard TinyTrak3 controller, so programing and
> >> operations will be familiar to many of you. I designed the high
power
> >> unit especially for SAR op's. I hope to have testing completed next
> >> week and the devices in Byonics hands shortly thereafter. Your
comments
> >> and ideas are invited.
> >>
> >> Allen R. Lord
> >> KG6HXO
> >> Y222
> >> VHS Products
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> > Yahoo! Groups Links
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386. Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 13:17:55 UTC
From: Greg
Topic: 351 Message: 386

Hello Mr. Bruninga:

I just joined this group a week ago or so and have seen traffic about 144.34 and 144.99 (I think). Is there anyway you could help me understand why or why not to use these alternate aprs freqs? In Denton Co. TX and sometimes in the surrounding counties we've been using 144.34 only during events then switching back to 144.39 for everyday stuff.

Thanks for all your hard work on APRS. It's becoming more and more valuable everyday.

73, de n5aor, Greg

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Robert Bruninga" <wb4apr@...> wrote:
>
>
> Allen, thanks...
>
> > Frankly, I have had more call for Australian
> > frequencies than the low power frequency (144.340),
> > so I have not been able to justify the rather
> > substantial investment in producing runs
> > of crystal-controlled units on secondary frequencies.
>
> I understand completely. On a side note, Can I ask that you
> not refer to 144.34 as "the low power frequency" but instead
> speak of it as "the national ATV calling frequency" which it has
> been since the 1970's. Again, I am trying to make sure that all
> APRS operators in the USA are aware of what the frequency is so
> that we do not create a nightmare of frequency missuse...
>
> Thanks
> Bob, Wb4APR
>
>
>
> (We
> > do make a EU version on 144.800, but this is not greatly
> > appreciated as a U.S. frequency....) I think our programmable
> > unit, the Micro-Trak 200 FA (and you will see a draft manual
> > for it in the files section) should address all those other
> > frequencies (between 144 and 147 MHZ). I have high hopes that
> > an 8 Watt version will also give us satellite access in the
> future.
> >

> > I have been working on a low-cost Micro-Trak design for a
> > while, with quick-swap frequencies and a 3 day turn around
> > time for any desired frequency. So far it is just suitable
> > for a fox transmitter, since I have not been able to make it
> > clean enough for 1200 Baud data. (works great as a 300 Baud
> > transmitter!) if/when I find the time and solution to the
> > technical problems, I will produce low cost transmitter based
> > on the simple design. I will post a photo of the experimental
> > version to this site.
> >
> > Allen
> > VHS
> >
> >
> >
> > _____
> >
> > Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com
> > <http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour/?ncid=AOLAOF000200
> 00000982> .
> >
> >
>

387. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 14:06:20 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 351 Message: 387

On Tue, 24 Jul 2007, Greg wrote:

> You know, it seems to me that for the most part, Garmin has a usable
> units in the Rhino portable line just not enough power, wrong freq.
> ban(ham instead of GMRS/FRS), and no changeable antenna.

Just curious, when you say "not enough power", what are you
referring to? The GMRS/FRS RINO's originally had to transmit the
position data at the FRS power levels, but a later STA from the FCC
allowed them to bump that up to GMRS power levels. You can do a
firmware update on the older models to obtain this higher power
level for the positioning packets. The new radios already have it.

Of course if you bought the FRS-only models, or don't buy a GMRS
license ($75 for five years?), you're out of luck.

Not that I'm pushing these radios: I'm a ham and heavily into APRS,
but just want everything to be clear on the other options.

So... For those that are into some experimentation, you could put
one of these GMRS radios on a pole at the ICP, connect it via a long
serial cable to a laptop running Xastir w/GPSMan support compiled
in, poll the field units regularly and plot them on topo or street
maps. Add a TNC and ham radio/antenna to the mix and Xastir can
transmit the RINO locations as APRS objects on the ham frequency so
that your APRS stations see their locations too.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

388. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 14:57:58 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 388

Cool, I'll have to experiment with that. I know my GPSmap 176c does
proximity waypoints.

Scott
N1VG

Tapio Sokura wrote:
> Scott Miller wrote:
>> I wonder if any of the Garmins are able to plot proximity waypoints as
>> areas.. that'd be pretty cool...
>
> At least current Garmin marine units draw a circle on the map screen
> around a proximity waypoint. The diameter of the circle is taken from
> the proximity range defined for that waypoint. I'm not sure about the
> handheld units, I guess it's possible there as well.
>
> Tapio
>
>
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>
>
>

389. Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 15:15:16 UTC
From: Greg
Topic: 351 Message: 389

Hello Curt, and yes, I was aware of the STA from the FCC and the power helps but with "dummy loads" for antennas, those radios are severally tx/rx limited. I do however like your idea of putting a Rhino (is it Rhino or Rino?) on a pole. What about putting a "passive RF coupler" (is that even the right way to say that?) around the uhf antenna of the Rhino and feeding that into an amp with pre-amp and then outside to the antenna of one's choice? Is that even legal??? Let's keep talking, I'm learning good now...

And yes, I've been meaning to get a GMRS license for several years now.

Greg, n5aor

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...> wrote:
>
> On Tue, 24 Jul 2007, Greg wrote:
>
> > > You know, it seems to me that for the most part, Garmin has a usable
> > > units in the Rhino portable line just not enough power, wrong freq.
> > > ban(ham instead of GMRS/FRS), and no changeable antenna.
>
> Just curious, when you say "not enough power", what are you
> referring to? The GMRS/FRS RINO's originally had to transmit the
> position data at the FRS power levels, but a later STA from the FCC
> allowed them to bump that up to GMRS power levels. You can do a
> firmware update on the older models to obtain this higher power
> level for the positioning packets. The new radios already have it.
>
> Of course if you bought the FRS-only models, or don't buy a GMRS
> license ($75 for five years?), you're out of luck.
>
> Not that I'm pushing these radios: I'm a ham and heavily into APRS,
> but just want everything to be clear on the other options.
>
> So... For those that are into some experimentation, you could put
> one of these GMRS radios on a pole at the ICP, connect it via a long
> serial cable to a laptop running Xastir w/GPSMan support compiled
> in, poll the field units regularly and plot them on topo or street
> maps. Add a TNC and ham radio/antenna to the mix and Xastir can
> transmit the RINO locations as APRS objects on the ham frequency so
> that your APRS stations see their locations too.
>
> --
> Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
> "Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
> "Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U

> The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!
>

390. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 15:39:22 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 351 Message: 390

On Tue, 24 Jul 2007, Greg wrote:

> Hello Curt, and yes, I was aware of the STA from the FCC and the power
> helps but with "dummy loads" for antennas, those radios are severally
> tx/rx limited. I do however like your idea of putting a Rhino (is it
> Rhino or Rino?) on a pole. What about putting a "passive RF coupler"
> (is that even the right way to say that?) around the uhf antenna of the
> Rhino and feeding that into an amp with pre-amp and then outside to the
> antenna of one's choice? Is that even legal??? Let's keep talking, I'm
> learning good now...

That's spelled "larnin gud". hi hi. For non-hams on this list, "hi hi" is a laugh in morse code.

I've been a ham for 29? years or so, but I'm not into the RF side of things. I have RF engineer friends to lean on when I really need it. So... Can't answer your question, but I suspect it at least violates the spirit of the GMRS/FRS rules to try to work around the crappy antenna. It'd probably work, but then the RINO on a pole also needs to send a poll request _to_ the other RINO's in order to get their positioning info. Otherwise you have to wait for each team to press their SEND LOCATION button, and we all know how well _that_ would work!

BTW: The Xastir/RINO setup works by having each RINO in the field preset with "APRS" as the first four characters of their ID. That's how the RINO at the ICP can poll all of them with a group poll at once. Any RINO's in the area not set up this way would remain silent during the poll.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
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The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

391. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 15:44:34 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 391

What about building a cross protocol/cross band digipeater with Rhinos's acting as a "wireless microphone" control and display unit, and having a Ham APRS standard protocol I/O on the other end? SAR people could then have cheap (relatively) GPS handhelds, and still have the support of local AO repeaters, plus genuine APRS digi and I-Gate access? This sounds like a job for Scott! We would have to use an FCC approved FRS unit on the local side (Probably a Rhino, I would think) but could have any old transmitter we wanted on the APRS side. Us CAP people cannot use FRS for real missions on pain of slow and agonizing death (and CAP never breaks any rules, just ask them!) but the rest of you don't have such restrictions, for the most part.

Allen
VHS
KG6HXO
Y222

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392. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 15:54:00 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 351 Message: 392

On Tue, 24 Jul 2007 CaptALord@... wrote:

> What about building a cross protocol/cross band digipeater with Rhinos's
> acting as a "wireless microphone" control and display unit, and having a Ham
> APRS standard protocol I/O on the other end? SAR people could then have cheap
> (relatively) GPS handhelds, and still have the support of local AO repeaters,
> plus genuine APRS digi and I-Gate access? This sounds like a job for Scott!
> We would have to use an FCC approved FRS unit on the local side (Probably a
> Rhino, I would think) but could have any old transmitter we wanted on the APRS
> side. Us CAP people cannot use FRS for real missions on pain of slow and
> agonizing death (and CAP never breaks any rules, just ask them!) but the rest of
> you don't have such restrictions, for the most part.

Substitude GMRS for FRS so that it's actually a bit more usable, but
yea, good idea. You should be able to go GMRS->APRS with
auto-polling of the GMRS portables. Going the other way would
probably not be legal.

The above is what Xastir can do, but it's a somewhat complicated
setup. A TNC or set of TNC's that could hook to an APRS radio and a
GMRS radio would simplify the setup quite a bit. Of course if doing
this at base hook a laptop running an APRS program into the mix too.
If the cross-band digi is up on a hill away from base, then at base
you only need an APRS setup.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

393. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 17:17:37 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 393

I would envision something like this as a portable device. Something you can drop on a hilltop, launch on a tethered balloon, etc. A dedicated unit would be better than a PC based unit, unless we used a single board computer. Using a license free "uplink" like FRS would be the equivalent of using a cordless microphone, and would not violate any FCC or Ham rules that I can think of. The "control operator" would be the digi owner, and I suppose legally, anyone using the FRS input would have to be a ham too.... As far as the reverse link, we would need to translate APRS data to Rhino, and broadcast it over an approved FRS/GMRS radio. Do you think that this is a violation? It sounds to me like it is legal to send data on FRS/GMRS now, as long as it goes in as plain old audio. I suppose there could be several interpretations.

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

394. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 17:44:33 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 394

I *think* it's still only legal when it's polled or manually initiated.
In other words, you can't do automatic, timed transmissions. I try to
stay away from FRS myself, for anything beyond keeping in touch with the
kids when they ride their bikes to the school. And my son's got his
license and a VX-150 of his own now, so we don't even do that very often.

And considering what the Rinos cost, I'd rather put the effort into
developing my own hardware that'd better meet the needs of SAR teams,
rather than kludge around with Garmin's hardware.

Scott
N1VG

CaptALord@... wrote:
> I would envision something like this as a portable device. Something you
> can drop on a hilltop, launch on a tethered balloon, etc. A dedicated
> unit would be better than a PC based unit, unless we used a single board
> computer. Using a license free "uplink" like FRS would be the equivalent
> of using a cordless microphone, and would not violate any FCC or Ham
> rules that I can think of. The "control operator" would be the digi
> owner, and I suppose legally, anyone using the FRS input would have to
> be a ham too.... As far as the reverse link, we would need to translate
> APRS data to Rhino, and broadcast it over an approved FRS/GMRS radio. Do
> you think that this is a violation? It sounds to me like it is legal to
> send data on FRS/GMRS now, as long as it goes in as plain old audio. I
> suppose there could be several interpretations.
>
> Allen
> VHS
>
>
>
> ---
> Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com
> <http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour/?ncid=AOLAOF00020000000982>.
>

395. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 17:38:36 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 351 Message: 395

On Tue, 24 Jul 2007 CaptALord@... wrote:

> As far as the reverse
> link, we would need to translate APRS data to Rhino, and broadcast it over an
> approved FRS/GMRS radio. Do you think that this is a violation? It sounds to
> me like it is legal to send data on FRS/GMRS now, as long as it goes in as
> plain old audio.

I haven't read the latest FRS/GMRS regs, including the STA's which
apply to the RINO's (but would only apply to Garmin, not to us most
likely), so can't answer that for sure. My guess would be that it's
not ok to send data over FRS/GMRS per the current rules.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

396. Almost perfect Radio.....

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 19:06:47 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 396 Message: 396

Uniden makes a VHF radio with GPS display, position exchange, etc. It is almost perfect for our needs, EXCEPT it's a Marine band radio, and does not have digipeat capability. It would be great if it could be hacked for out of band operations....

http://www.uniden.com/products/productdetail.cfm?product=MYSTIC (http://www.uniden.com/products/productdetail.cfm?product=MYSTIC) #

Allen
VHS

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397. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 19:12:54 UTC
From: Andy
Topic: 351 Message: 397

> At 12 volts, it draws about an Amp on transmit, and it seems from
> preliminary testing that it will run down at least as low as 9 volts,
> (with significantly lower output) and as high as 13.6 volts.

13.6 volts seems somewhat low for a maximum voltage rating, doesn't it?

Many "12V" batteries on charge exceed that.

I hope yours allows higher.

Andy

398. Re: [SAR_APRS] Almost perfect Radio.....

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 19:21:16 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 396 Message: 398

CaptALord@... wrote:
> Uniden makes a VHF radio with GPS display, position exchange, etc. It is
> /almost /perfect for our needs, EXCEPT it's a Marine band radio, and
> does not have digipeat capability. It would be great if it could be
> hacked for out of band operations....

Assuming you don't mind the $700 price tag, anyway.

Scott
N1VG

399. Re: [SAR_APRS] Almost perfect Radio.....

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 19:50:54 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 396 Message: 399

Super-secret dealer cost is $259.00....tell no one of this!

Allen

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

400. Re: [SAR_APRS] Almost perfect Radio.....

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 20:03:26 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 396 Message: 400

Dang, I need to become a Uniden dealer! That's an obscene markup. I
can't think of anything I resell for over $5 that has a markup of more
than 20%. Sheesh...

Scott
N1VG

CaptALord@... wrote:
> Super-secret dealer cost is $259.00....tell no one of this!
>
> Allen
>
>
>
> ---
> Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com
> <http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour/?ncid=AOLAOF00020000000982>.
>

401. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 20:16:19 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 401

Andy,

Actually, the highest published maximum for the amplifier module is 13.2 Volts. Although I ran it as high as 13.6 for testing. I would use a regulator if you plan to have it on a higher voltage circuit than 12V.

Allen

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

402. Re: [SAR_APRS] Almost perfect Radio.....

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-24 20:17:13 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 396 Message: 402

Well, published retail is $599.00....

Allen

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

403. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 00:48:31 UTC
From: Bob Bruninga
Topic: 351 Message: 403

> I just joined this group a week ago or so and
> have seen traffic about 144.34 and 144.99 (I think).
> Is there anyway you could help me understand why
> or why not to use these alternate aprs freqs?

Id be happy to, but i am on travel and doing complex emails is hard from a laptop with no mouse.

My two postings about the usage of 144.34 adn 144.39 I thought were pretty much all there is to know. That is 144.34 is the AMATEUR TV VHF calling frequency and should only be used for Balloons on an event basis.

144.99 is an ideal freq (144.39 +600) for setting up an alternate input frequency. But someone has to set up these inputs to the local digis. THe advantage is that inputs on this freq do not have to compete with all the out-of-area traffic on 144.39

Hope that helps

Bob
WB4APR

404. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 04:29:03 UTC
From: Andy
Topic: 351 Message: 404

> Actually, the highest published maximum for the amplifier module is 13.2
> Volts. Although I ran it as high as 13.6 for testing. I would use a
> regulator if you plan to have it on a higher voltage circuit than 12V.

The problem is that a "12V" source isn't 12.0 volts, unless you've got a lab power supply plugged into an AC outlet. A storage cell battery may be as high as 14+ volts or down to 11 volts, depending on conditions. Requiring a DC-DC converter (not a linear regulator) just because you're using a "12V source" seems a bit extreme and asking for trouble.

AFAIK, most mobile ham rigs are designed to tolerate these higher (and lower) voltages, especially the intermittent ones that last only briefly.

Andy

405. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 14:08:02 UTC
From: Keith VE7GDH
Topic: 351 Message: 405

Allen KG6HXO wrote...

> Actually, the highest published maximum for the amplifier module is 13.2
> Volts. Although I ran it as high as 13.6 for testing. I would use a
> regulator if you plan to have it on a higher voltage circuit than 12V.

In future versions, why don't you add an optional DC-DC converter so it could handle typical automobile voltages? Users that didn't need it could just install a jumper. Even better than making it able to survive higher voltages, a smart switching regulator could shut it down below a certain voltage... e.g. less than 3V per cell so that SAR types that want to keep the weight down could use a Li-Po battery without worrying about deep discharging it.

Mind you, if you make it too easy to install it in a vehicle, it could increase the number of people installing the 8W version in a vehicle for regular every-day APRS use in busy areas where a receiver is needed for DCD.

If you ever add a receiver to the package, and change it from a regular TT3 to something that could decode received beacons and output them as waypoints to a display type GPS receiver, it would allow the user to see the positions of other SAR teams. Another possibility would be to optionally reduce the transmit power based on whether a transmitted beacon was digipeated.

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

406. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 15:41:37 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 406

Keith,

DC to DC converters are expensive. Given the wide range of voltage tolerance the amplifier module can handle, I opted to leave a 12 volt regulation stage off the device, anticipating that most people would use primary batteries (Alkaline or Lithium). I would love to do an inline power adaptor that would provide a fixed 12 Volt out with a programmable low voltage drop out. Of course, it would need to handle an ampere or so, so it would not be very small.....I may do a truly mobile Micro-Trak version (maybe 30- 60 Watts variable output) which would mean high current voltage regulation. Given that transmissions are infrequent, short duration bursts of data, high current pulses could be achieved pretty easily with a linear regulator and a high enough value output capacitor. Smaller, lighter, and more affordable? Maybe.

I will be doing a transceiver (single channel, crystal controlled) based on the TinyTrak4. I am waiting for the existing hardware and software to be debugged before I go too far down that road. The "Holy Grail" as I see it would be a Ham version of the Rhino with internal digipeating support, but no one seems rushing forward to build such a thing and that project is a bit beyond my production capacity! My immediate goal with the TT4 will be a transceiver capable of tracking, anti-tracking (uploading waypoints) and digipeating, simultaneously or selectively. I may possibly place an audio stage in there for VOX communications. This could be sort of a poor SAR guys PRC-90 rescue radio if they lost all other comms.

Allen
VHS

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407. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 16:05:50 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 407

The problem I ran into with my transceiver is that it's hard to get the pulse current you need from alkaline batteries, especially in cold weather. Alkaline AAs would have plenty of capacity to run the thing all day, but their internal resistance is too high.

NiCds don't have that problem, but I was looking at an ultracapacitor solution. It looks doable, but not exactly cheap, and I was worried about the fast voltage drop. I think I'm going to skip it for now and stick with a battery pack that can supply the current needed, but it'd be interesting to try out sometime. APRS really only needs about 500-750 ms of transmit time for a position packet.

Scott
N1VG

CaptALord@... wrote:
> Keith,
>
> DC to DC converters are expensive. Given the wide range of voltage
> tolerance the amplifier module can handle, I opted to leave a 12 volt
> regulation stage off the device, anticipating that most people would use
> primary batteries (Alkaline or Lithium). I would love to do an inline
> power adaptor that would provide a fixed 12 Volt out with a programmable
> low voltage drop out. Of course, it would need to handle an ampere or
> so, so it would not be very small.....I may do a truly mobile Micro-Trak
> version (maybe 30- 60 Watts variable output) which would mean high
> current voltage regulation. Given that transmissions are infrequent,
> short duration bursts of data, high current pulses could be achieved
> pretty easily with a linear regulator and a high enough value output
> capacitor. Smaller, lighter, and more affordable? Maybe.
>
> I will be doing a transceiver (single channel, crystal controlled)
> based on the TinyTrak4. I am waiting for the existing hardware and
> software to be debugged before I go too far down that road. The "Holy
> Grail" as I see it would be a Ham version of the Rhino with internal
> digipeating support, but no one seems rushing forward to build such a
> thing and that project is a bit beyond my production capacity! My
> immediate goal with the TT4 will be a transceiver capable of tracking,
> anti-tracking (uploading waypoints) and digipeating, simultaneously or
> selectively. I may possibly place an audio stage in there for VOX
> communications. This could be sort of a poor SAR guys PRC-90 rescue
> radio if they lost all other comms.
>
> Allen
> VHS
>

>
>
> ---
> Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL.com
> <http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour/?ncid=AOLAOF00020000000982>.
>

408. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 16:10:33 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 351 Message: 408

On Wed, 25 Jul 2007, Scott Miller wrote:

> The problem I ran into with my transceiver is that it's hard to get the
> pulse current you need from alkaline batteries, especially in cold
> weather. Alkaline AAs would have plenty of capacity to run the thing
> all day, but their internal resistance is too high.
>
> NiCds don't have that problem, but I was looking at an ultracapacitor
> solution.

The Motorola 2-way 900MHz pager I used to carry used an AA alkaline
battery plus had a NiCd cell inside somewhere. They charged the
NiCd cell off the alkaline, then pulsed the transmitter off the
NiCd.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

409. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 16:33:15 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 409

Yeah, that'd probably be cheaper than the capacitor solution. It's
still more bulk, though. Right now, I'm working on squeezing something
into a case like the Pelican 1010.

A reasonably compact Li-PO battery (35 cm^3, < 80 grams) would give
about 18 hours run time with either the RX or GPS running (digipeater or
tracker) or about half that with both on.

At about $30 each, you could still carry a spare battery pack and swap
it out in the field if necessary. I think field teams would be more
willing to deal with non-standard batteries when it means a significant
weight savings.

Scott
N1VG

Curt, WE7U wrote:
> On Wed, 25 Jul 2007, Scott Miller wrote:
>
>> The problem I ran into with my transceiver is that it's hard to get the
>> pulse current you need from alkaline batteries, especially in cold
>> weather. Alkaline AAs would have plenty of capacity to run the thing
>> all day, but their internal resistance is too high.
>>
>> NiCds don't have that problem, but I was looking at an ultracapacitor
>> solution.
>
> The Motorola 2-way 900MHz pager I used to carry used an AA alkaline
> battery plus had a NiCd cell inside somewhere. They charged the
> NiCd cell off the alkaline, then pulsed the transmitter off the
> NiCd.
>
> --
> Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
> "Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
> "Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
> The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!
>
>
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>
>

410. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 18:45:42 UTC
From: Keith VE7GDH
Topic: 351 Message: 410

Allen KG6HXO wrote...

> DC to DC converters are expensive. Given the wide range of voltage
> tolerance the amplifier module can handle, I opted to leave a 12 volt
> regulation stage off the device, anticipating that most people would use
> primary batteries (Alkaline or Lithium).

That was why I suggested making it optional... just have the pads and traces available on the cct board but not include it with the device. Users that didn't need voltage regulation could just install a jumper.

> I would love to do an inline power adaptor that would provide a fixed
> 12 Volt out with a programmable low voltage drop out. Of course, it
> would need to handle an ampere or so, so it would not be very small.....

Users can certainly have an outboard regulator, but having it available as an option would make for a lot smaller package. Given that this is the SAR APRS list, I think that a compact self contained package that could wring the absolute maximum use out of a Li-Po battery without deep discharging it might be very popular.

> I may do a truly mobile Micro-Trak version (maybe 30- 60 Watts
> variable output) which would mean high current voltage regulation.
> Given that transmissions are infrequent, short duration bursts of data,
> high current pulses could be achieved pretty easily with a linear
> regulator and a high enough value output capacitor.
> Smaller, lighter, and more affordable? Maybe.

To be honest, I don't think there would be a lot of demand for a high power version. To me, the danger would be people trying to use them "in the city" where a receiver for DCD is really needed. It's also the kind of power range that mobile radios use these days which of course have the receiver built in. Of course, if it was for mobile use, it wouldn't need the low voltage drop out that the Li-POs would like. A DR-135T with T2-135 could provide the high power version, but that's "from the other guy" hi!

> I will be doing a transceiver (single channel, crystal controlled) based
> on the TinyTrak4. I am waiting for the existing hardware and software to
> be debugged before I go too far down that road...
> My immediate goal with the TT4 will be a transceiver capable of tracking,
> anti-tracking (uploading waypoints) and digipeating, simultaneously or
> selectively. I may possibly place an audio stage in there for VOX
> communications. This could be sort of a poor SAR guys PRC-90
> rescue radio if they lost all other comms.

I think that would be a good seller! Maybe it would fit inside the same enclosure as a HamHud II rev E ! Don't forget the switching regulator with

low voltage drop-out so it could be used with a two cell Li-PO!

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

411. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 18:57:43 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 351 Message: 411

Keith,

I will keep the switching regulator in mind. For clarification purposes, my concept for a high power (30-60 Watt) version would be a transceiver based on the TT4, not a "blind" transmit-only Micro-Trak. (before I start getting hate mail from APRS users out there!)

Allen
VHS

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

412. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 19:10:06 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 412

I think someone might have mentioned it already, but a DR-135T with a T2-135 installed will get you the same thing today. Total cost is around $250. That gets you 50 watts out, AM receive for ELT monitoring, and of course you can use it as a voice radio.

Scott
N1VG

CaptALord@... wrote:
> Keith,
>
> I will keep the switching regulator in mind. For clarification purposes,
> my concept for a high power (30-60 Watt) version would be a transceiver
> based on the TT4, not a "blind" transmit-only Micro-Trak. (before I
> start getting hate mail from APRS users out there!)
>
> Allen
> VHS
>
>
>

413. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 19:48:01 UTC
From: Keith VE7GDH
Topic: 351 Message: 413

Scott N1VG wrote...

> I think someone might have mentioned it already, but a DR-135T...

I was just looking in the T2-135 manual. How well does APRS messaging work on it.. i.e. how many messages will it store, perhaps comment on finding a message or scrolling through a message, ease of keying in a reply from the mic (or canned messages)? I know that another DR-135T and a T2-135 will have to be on my shopping list when I get some bills paid off!

I'm also wondering if it will work out OK with a HamHUD II rev E when it gets KISS support.

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

414. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 19:58:27 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 351 Message: 414

There's no user interface integration with the front panel like the
D700. If you want to do messaging, you need at least a PDA or something
connected to the serial port. Basically, incoming messages just get
spit out the serial port and ack'd. You can use the REPLY or SEND
commands to send messages. It's useful if you've got a dumb terminal
and want to do a keyboard-to-keyboard QSO with acks and IGate support.

If you want something to store messages and let you scroll through them,
the HamHUD II (or maybe V) is what you want. And yeah, I'll be working
to make sure they're compatible.

More often, the messaging is used to talk to the T2 board itself. I use
my TH-D7 to reconfigure the unit in my trunk. Since it's all APRS
messaging, it'll pass through IGates. I had a friend borrow a T2-135 on
a cross-country trip (CA to OH) and as he was driving through Oklahoma
City I was editing the configuration from California.

Scott
N1VG

Keith VE7GDH wrote:
> Scott N1VG wrote...
>
>> I think someone might have mentioned it already, but a DR-135T...
>
> I was just looking in the T2-135 manual. How well does APRS messaging work
> on it.. i.e. how many messages will it store, perhaps comment on finding a
> message or scrolling through a message, ease of keying in a reply from the
> mic (or canned messages)? I know that another DR-135T and a T2-135 will have
> to be on my shopping list when I get some bills paid off!
>
> I'm also wondering if it will work out OK with a HamHUD II rev E when it
> gets KISS support.
>
> 73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
> --
> "I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"
>
>
>
>
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
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>

415. Re: [SAR_APRS] 8 Watt APRS Transmitter

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-25 20:33:08 UTC
From: Keith VE7GDH
Topic: 351 Message: 415

Scott N1VG wrote...

> There's no user interface integration with the front panel like the
> D700. If you want to do messaging, you need at least a PDA or something
> connected to the serial port...

That doesn't sound too bad. I would almost always have a laptop or something with me. Would all received data go to the PDA, laptop or whatever, or could it just show received messages? For SAR use, I can see that the addition of a PDA would be useful for when you didn't want to say something in the clear for the press or whatever to monitor on a scanner. I'll get a T2-135 sometime, but I also have a couple of HamHUD II rev Es sitting there waiting for me to put them together.

I really like the idea of being able to configure it remotely.

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

416. Motorola Jedi / EF Johnson cables

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-07-26 18:16:55 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 416 Message: 416

In case anyone still needs them, I just got a shipment of speaker mic cables for the Motorola Jedi series that should work on the EF Johnson radios CAP is using.

<https://www.argentdata.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=69>

They're about 3 times more expensive than any other cable I carry, but at $20 each that's still less than half what I've been able to find them for elsewhere.

Scott
N1VG

417. Micro-Trak New Versions

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-01 14:23:34 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 417 Message: 417

The two newest Micro-Trak versions are available on the Byonics website: http://www.byonics.com/microtrak/ These include the new 8 Watt single channel Micro-Trak, the Micro-Trak 8000, and the Micro-Trak 200 FA, the frequency agile/programmable unit. A European frequency version of the 8 Watt unit will be available in late August.

Allen
VHS

418. Re: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-05 22:39:16 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 121 Message: 418

I finally got a chance to implement the DFSxxxx APRS extension. It's presently set up to report S0 to S9 based on an input of 2-5 volts on the pin marked A1 on the 12-pin header. The pin marked G is ground.

I don't think I have your mailing address handy - let me know what it is and I'll send you an OT1+ unit for testing.

Scott

CaptALord@... wrote:
> Bob,
>
> I use the RSSI strength as 1-255 because that is what the OpenTracker
> analog input codes a 0-5 volt RSSI signal. I am sure that it can be
> parsed into 10 segments. The actual method by which the coded analog
> data is introduced in to the APRS circular DF filed is beyond me. I will
> leave that to Scott!
>
> In Northern California, 99 and 99/100ths of the ELT signals will be
> false alarms. With an enormous satellite circular (actually elliptical)
> error probability, just being able to determine whether an ELT signal
> is detectable on an airport ramp will help eliminate the "cry wolf"
> signals. When the SARSATs stop listening to 121.5 in a few years, a
> system that can monitor the low power 121.5 beacons (Which will still
> be utilized in the gee-whiz GPS encoded satellite uplink ELTs) A system
> like this could be a literal life saver.
>
> Given our mountainous terrain, Circular DF techniques have tremendous
> benefits when operating Airborne. The Civil Air Patrol is somewhat
> handicapped by not being able to use the APRS network on actual Air
> Force missions, so we would need to use our own frequencies. We have VHF
> repeaters that more or less cover the whole world (at least while
> airborne) I envision this as a stand-alone CAP network, rather than a
> Ham supported network. Your thoughts?
>
> Allen, Capt. USAF-AUX
> KG6HXO
> Y 222
>

419. Re: [SAR_APRS] Basics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-05 22:45:07 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 121 Message: 419

Scott,

Great! I am anxious to try it out. My address is:

VHS Special Services
1370 Trancas Street, Suite 201
Napa, CVA 94558

Allen

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

420. SiRF Star III receivers for $50

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-07 21:27:54 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 420 Message: 420

The new SiRF Star III-based receivers from Deluo work great - they're
way more sensitive than the older Sony units - but apparently the
factory screwed up on the latest shipment and put male mini-DIN
connectors on them rather than female.

This means that they won't work with any of the adapters, but the
receivers are still perfectly good. I've got around 50 on hand right
now, and instead of shipping them back for rework I negotiated a price
reduction on them and I'm selling them at the discounted price of $50 each.

If you don't mind a little soldering to get it to a usable connector,
this is probably the best deal you're going to find on these things.
For tracker purposes, you can wire up a female DB9 with green -> pin 2,
red -> pin 4, and black -> pin 5.

If you're one of the few customers that got one of these before the
mistake was discovered, let me know (and include your order number) and
I'll give you a credit for the price difference.

https://www.argentdata.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=61

Scott
N1VG

421. Free.Open Source CAD, with APRS, Mapping ...

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-18 17:38:57 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 417 Message: 421

Guys, there's a free/Open Source dispatch application now online, and in use at the moment by an Ohio volunteer outfit. It's built around the usual Open Source suspects, and integrates Google maps, APRS interface for responder tracking, a database, etc., etc. Yep, really free. Mebbe of possible special interest to the volunteer groups here.

You can see it at http://kolamiannapolis.org/tickets/ - there's a guest login available there.

They tend to close out tickets ASAP, so click on SHOW CLOSED for some insight into the stuff they're handling.

Contact me for further information, of course.

Arnie Shore,
Annapolis, MD

422. Re: [SAR_APRS] Free.Open Source CAD, with APRS, Mapping ...

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-19 00:29:16 UTC
From: DESloan@aol.com
Topic: 417 Message: 422

Where is the application located?

TNX & 73,
Dave N0EOP

********** Get a sneak peek of the all-new AOL at http://discover.aol.com/memed/aolcom30tour

423. Re: [SAR_APRS] Free.Open Source CAD, with APRS, Mapping ...

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-19 02:01:44 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 417 Message: 423

Dave, you can see it at http://kolamiannapolis.org/tickets/
<http://kolamiannapolis.org/tickets/> - there's a guest login available
there. Downloadable file (if that's what you meant) will be available
in a few weeks - I gotta crank in some 'lessons learned' from the
current exercise.

Please note: It's a classical web application. It needs a web server
to run on. Your own if you have one, or else from any web host, incl yr
current Internet Service Provider. Mebbe $8 per month if it's the
latter. And with that, your users can get to it from any browser -
which they already have, anyplace, anytime.

You'll have more questions, I expect, so come back with them.

Arnie Shore

DESloan@... wrote:
>
> Where is the application located?
>
> TNX & 73,
> Dave N0EOP
>

424. New Group to Complement the Tracker Groups on Yahoo

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-31 16:53:16 UTC
From: Ed
Topic: 424 Message: 424

Hello,
I am the moderator of a Yahoo Group entitled Man-Trackers University. I am inviting your associates to become members of this group and help learn about tracking human quarry.

Obviously, we cannot learn tracking by just reading textbooks and no textbook is so complete as to be the perfect "Bible". There are situations that will call for trackers to seek assistance from other trackers who can lend their years; and yes, decades of experiences to help you.

We address questions about specific equipment and/or methods to accomplish a successful chase. It is hoped that our group will pass to the members the decades of hard-learned lessons that will make all "Better Trackers" in different situations.

Currently the group has members from all over the world. Participants from Africa, Canada, British Columbia, UK, Finland, Sweden, and the USA.

We are pleased to have in our membership professionals who are involved with tracking..

Troy Lettieri - Special Operations Tactical Tracking Institute (SOTTI)
Kevin Reeve - OnPoint Tactical Tracking School
Del Morris - Director ISPT/International Society of Professional Trackers
Fernando Moreira - Fernando Moreira Professional Tracking Services
Bob Matthews - Horizon Tracking in Arizona
Kim Cabrera - Track and Sign/ISPT
Bob Brady - Consultant/Law Enforcment/SAR

.. and we stand by to answer posted questions and hints for trackers on subjects as: Tactical and Combat Tracking, Sign Cutting, Aging of Sign, Gathering Evidence, Pursuit, Forensics, Climate and Weather Conditions, Night Maneuvers, Deception Tactics, Map Reading, GPS, Successful Lost and Invisible Track Drills, Tactical Books, Organizations that offer Tracking Classes, Articles of Successful Tracking Recoveries, Specialized Tracking Sticks, etc.

You can access the group at URL:
http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/man_tracking_university/
<../../../../man_tracking_university/>

Ed

425. Re: [SAR_APRS] New Group to Complement the Tracker Groups on Yahoo

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-31 17:22:57 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 424 Message: 425
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

426. Re: New Group to Complement the Tracker Groups on Yahoo

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-31 20:01:27 UTC
From: Ed
Topic: 424 Message: 426

Hello David,

It would much appreciated if you would forward the message to your
member list.

-Ed

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, dcassoc@... wrote:
>
> okay if I forward this to our member list?
>
> David Clarke
> Captain, NJ Search & Rescue
> MRA- Honor Guard
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Ed
> Date: Friday, August 31, 2007 12:53 pm
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] New Group to Complement the Tracker Groups on
Yahoo
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
>
> > Hello,
> > I am the moderator of a Yahoo Group entitled Man-Trackers
> > University. I
> > am inviting your associates to become members of this group and help
> > learn about tracking human quarry.
> >
> > Obviously, we cannot learn tracking by just reading textbooks
> > and no
> > textbook is so complete as to be the perfect "Bible". There are
> > situations that will call for trackers to seek assistance from other
> > trackers who can lend their years; and yes, decades of
> > experiences to
> > help you.
> >
> > We address questions about specific equipment and/or methods to
> > accomplish a successful chase. It is hoped that our group will
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> > the members the decades of hard-learned lessons that will make all
> > "Better Trackers" in different situations.
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> > from Africa, Canada, British Columbia, UK, Finland, Sweden, and

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> > USA.
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> > Bob Matthews - Horizon Tracking in Arizona
> > Kim Cabrera - Track and Sign/ISPT
> > Bob Brady - Consultant/Law Enforcment/SAR
> >
> > .. and we stand by to answer posted questions and hints for
> > trackers on
> > subjects as: Tactical and Combat Tracking, Sign Cutting, Aging
> > of Sign,
> > Gathering Evidence, Pursuit, Forensics, Climate and Weather
> > Conditions,Night Maneuvers, Deception Tactics, Map Reading,
> > GPS, Successful Lost
> > and Invisible Track Drills, Tactical Books, Organizations that offer
> > Tracking Classes, Articles of Successful Tracking Recoveries,
> > Specialized Tracking Sticks, etc.
> >
> > You can access the group at URL:
> > http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/man_tracking_university/
> > <../../../../man_tracking_university/>
> >
> > Ed
> >
> >
>

427. Re: [SAR_APRS] New Group to Complement the Tracker Groups on Yahoo

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-31 20:10:41 UTC
From: John Lockwood
Topic: 424 Message: 427
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

428. Re: [SAR_APRS] New Group to Complement the Tracker Groups on Yahoo

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-31 20:49:28 UTC
From: Stan Leeds, KC7EHJ
Topic: 424 Message: 428

Copy and paste

http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/man_tracking_university/

Stan/KC7EHJ

John Lockwood wrote:
>
>
> The links seem to be broken.
>
> On 8/31/07, *Ed* <edosan@... <mailto:edosan@...>> wrote:
>
> *Hello,*
>
> *I am the moderator of a Yahoo Group entitled Man-Trackers
> University. I am inviting your associates to become members of this
> group and help learn about tracking human quarry. *
>
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> no textbook is so complete as to be the perfect "Bible". There are
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> trackers who can lend their years; and yes, decades of experiences
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> to the members the decades of hard-learned lessons that will make
> all "Better Trackers" in different situations. *
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> *Currently the group has members from all over the world.
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> Weather Conditions, Night Maneuvers, Deception Tactics, Map Reading,
> GPS, Successful Lost and Invisible Track Drills, Tactical Books,
> Organizations that offer Tracking Classes, Articles of Successful
> Tracking Recoveries, Specialized Tracking Sticks, etc.*
>
> *You can access the group at URL:
> http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/man_tracking_university/
> <http://../../../../man_tracking_university/>*
>
> *Ed*
>

429. Re: New Group to Complement the Tracker Groups on Yahoo

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-08-31 21:07:57 UTC
From: Ed
Topic: 424 Message: 429

Hello John,

It appears that the Yahoo editor separated the link.

Please cut and paste the below URL into your browser..
http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/man_tracking_university/

Thanks,

Ed
--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "John Lockwood" <radioK6GEK@...> wrote:
>
> The links seem to be broken.
>
> On 8/31/07, Ed <edosan@...> wrote:
> >
> > *Hello,*
> >
> > *I am the moderator of a Yahoo Group entitled Man-Trackers
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> >
> > *You can access the group at URL:
> >
http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/man_tracking_university/<http://../../../../man_track
ing_university/>
> > *
> >
> > *Ed*
> >
> >
> >
>

430. RE: [SAR_APRS] New Group to Complement the Tracker Groups on Yahoo

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-01 01:49:03 UTC
From: C.J. Glover
Topic: 424 Message: 430
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Your link is broken but I went to your web site. Man

Trackers University to get to you.

CJ Glover, Commander

Morongo Basin SAR

Joshua Tree. Ca

431. REVISED CORRECTED URL -- New Group to Complement the Tracker Groups on Yahoo

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-01 12:53:45 UTC
From: Ed
Topic: 424 Message: 431

Hello CJ,

Thank you for your message ..

This is a reposting. Apparently the URL was not treated kindly by the Yahoo Editor.

If the URL at the bottom of this message fails .. Please cut and paste this URL into your browser.
http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/man_tracking_university/

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Currently the group has members from all over the world. Participants from Africa, Canada, British Columbia, UK, Finland, Sweden, and the USA.

We are pleased to have in our membership professionals who are involved with tracking..
Tyron "Ty" Cunningham - Certified Master Scout Tracker
Troy Lettieri - Special Operations Tactical Tracking Institute (SOTTI)
Kevin Reeve - OnPoint Tactical Tracking School
Del Morris - Director ISPT/International Society of Professional Trackers
Fernando Moreira - Fernando Moreira Professional Tracking Services
Bob Matthews - Horizon Tracking in Arizona
Kim Cabrera - Track and Sign/ISPT
Bob Brady - Consultant/Law Enforcment/SAR (Sonoma County SAR and one of three people in the USA Certified in Sign Cutting by Joel Hardin) .. just to name a few.

.. and we stand by to answer posted questions and hints for trackers on subjects as: Tactical and Combat Tracking, Sign Cutting, Aging of Sign, Gathering Evidence, Pursuit, Forensics, Climate and Weather Conditions,

Night Maneuvers, Deception Tactics, Map Reading, GPS, Successful Lost
and Invisible Track Drills, Tactical Books, Organizations that offer
Tracking Classes, Articles of Successful Tracking Recoveries,
Specialized Tracking Sticks, etc.

You can access the group at URL:

http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/man_tracking_university/
<http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/man_tracking_university/>

Ed

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "C.J. Glover" <gasman.cj@...> wrote:
>
> Your link is broken but I went to your web site. Man
>
> Trackers University to get to you.
>
>
>
> CJ Glover, Commander
>
> Morongo Basin SAR
>
> Joshua Tree. Ca
>
>
> Hello,
>
>
> I am the moderator of a Yahoo Group entitled Man-Trackers University.
I am
> inviting your associates to become members of this group and help
learn
> about tracking human quarry.
>
> Obviously, we cannot learn tracking by just reading textbooks and no
> textbook is so complete as to be the perfect "Bible". There are
situations
> that will call for trackers to seek assistance from other trackers who
can
> lend their years; and yes, decades of experiences to help you.
>
> We address questions about specific equipment and/or methods to
accomplish a
> successful chase. It is hoped that our group will pass to the members
the
> decades of hard-learned lessons that will make all "Better Trackers"
in
> different situations.
>

> Currently the group has members from all over the world. Participants
from
> Africa, Canada, British Columbia, UK, Finland, Sweden, and the USA.
>
> We are pleased to have in our membership professionals who are
involved with
> tracking..
>
> Troy Lettieri - Special Operations Tactical Tracking Institute (SOTTI)
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> Del Morris - Director ISPT/International Society of Professional
Trackers
> Fernando Moreira - Fernando Moreira Professional Tracking Services
> Bob Matthews - Horizon Tracking in Arizona
> Kim Cabrera - Track and Sign/ISPT
> Bob Brady - Consultant/Law Enforcment/SAR
>
> .. and we stand by to answer posted questions and hints for trackers
on
> subjects as: Tactical and Combat Tracking, Sign Cutting, Aging of
Sign,
> Gathering Evidence, Pursuit, Forensics, Climate and Weather
Conditions,
> Night Maneuvers, Deception Tactics, Map Reading, GPS, Successful Lost
and
> Invisible Track Drills, Tactical Books, Organizations that offer
Tracking
> Classes, Articles of Successful Tracking Recoveries, Specialized
Tracking
> Sticks, etc.
>
> You can access the group at URL:
> http://health.groups.yahoo.com/group/man_tracking_university/
>
> Ed
>

432. APRS Summer Gathering, North Bend, WA, this weekend!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-05 19:01:07 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 432 Message: 432

<http://nwaprs.info/sg.htm>

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

433. Starting a SaR for the State Gaurd

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-22 21:56:36 UTC
From: projecthiker
Topic: 433 Message: 433

Im fixing to take on a task of startinf a search and rescue group for the SCSG. I would like some input on the best practices and equipment to present the General to establish what he wants. Again all help is appreciated. 73's kf4nxs.

434. Re: Starting a SaR for the State Gaurd

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-23 19:17:00 UTC
From: n2kto
Topic: 433 Message: 434

I would start with a DSTAR Repeater on 2m and a 1.2g repeater. Mobile units for any vehicles and HT's with GPS for first responders. The entire force will be able to be monitored (Directed) in real time via a laptop. Data input/output from around the world can be deceminated to the troups via the 1.2g link.

If this is out of your budget then get the TinyTrak4 and GPS's. There is a real drawback to using this technology as you have to have a second radio to communicate with Ops.

Dave Hubbell N2KTO
www.njdstar.com

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "projecthiker" <projecthiker@...> wrote:
>
> Im fixing to take on a task of startinf a search and rescue group for
> the SCSG. I would like some input on the best practices and equipment
> to present the General to establish what he wants. Again all help is
> appreciated. 73's kf4nxs.
>

435. Re: [SAR_APRS] Starting a SaR for the State Gaurd

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-24 18:28:16 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 433 Message: 435

On Sat, 22 Sep 2007, projecthiker wrote:

> Im fixing to take on a task of startinf a search and rescue group for
> the SCSG. I would like some input on the best practices and equipment
> to present the General to establish what he wants. Again all help is
> appreciated. 73's kf4nxs.

You didn't mention what area you wished to cover, whether you'll be deployed at times outside that area (and so have to take your communications infrastructure along with you), whether there already exist SAR groups in the area you'll be serving, etc.

Since you asked in an APRS group (I also saw a post from you in the sarcomm group), I'll give you an APRS answer:

Investigate these sorts of things:

Group 1: Ready-made:
Kenwood D710A 2m/440 mobile radio, add GPS. Voice + APRS.
Kenwood DH-D7A(G) 2m/440 HT radio, add GPS. Voice + APRS.
Alinco DR-135TP 2m w/built-in TNC, add GPS. Voice or APRS.
Alinco DR-135T 2m w/T2-135 TNC from N1VG, add GPS. Voice or APRS

D710A and DR-135T w/T2-135 can be used as digipeaters. The other two cannot.

Group 2: DIY:
OpenTracker OT1+. Add radio and GPS. Receives also and puts stations on the GPS map screen.
TinyTrak3. Add radio and GPS. Transmit only.
2m radio + Kantronics KPC-3+ TNC.

There are a few low-power transmit-only devices in the 300mW to 500mW range either out now or soon to be out, plus an 8W tx-only model that Byonics sells as well. I personally wish to avoid the TX-only and lowest power models in favor of TX/RX + digipeating models. I wish to be able to take the digipeater infrastructure with me into the woods.

Group 3: Out RealSoonNow cool stuff:
Tracker2 TNC from N1VG (T2-135 is one variant of this TNC)
Tinytrak4 TNC from Byonics
www.rpc-electronics.com (RTrak)
N1VG: 6W TX/RX + Tracker2 TNC in one case
KC0VXL: OT1+ w/Radiometrix TX

I'm sure I'll think of a few more right after I send this, but
that's normal.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

436. Re: [SAR_APRS] Starting a SaR for the State Gaurd

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-24 19:22:53 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 433 Message: 436

Curt,

We will have an 8 Watt transceiver based on the TinyTrak 4 as soon as the software issues are all ironed out. Wisful thinking/ product planning calls for the following features:

1) Tracking (naturally)
2) "Anti-Tracking" (uploading GPS waypoints to a portable)
3) Digipeating
4) back-up voice communications
5) Programmable operation frequencies

It is a might tall order, but I think that the code for the TT4 will eventually be able to handle all of these functions for us.

Allen R. Lord
VHS Products
KG6HXO
Y222

********** See what's new at http://www.aol.com

437. Re: [SAR_APRS] Starting a SaR for the State Gaurd

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-24 19:52:09 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 433 Message: 437

How's the 'anti-tracking' feature of the TT4 coming along? I actually
get the TT4 mailing list digest, but I rarely have time to look it over.

Scott

CaptALord@... wrote:
> Curt,
>
> We will have an 8 Watt transceiver based on the TinyTrak 4 as soon as
> the software issues are all ironed out. Wisful thinking/ product
> planning calls for the following features:
>
> 1) Tracking (naturally)
> 2) "Anti-Tracking" (uploading GPS waypoints to a portable)
> 3) Digipeating
> 4) back-up voice communications
> 5) Programmable operation frequencies
>
> It is a might tall order, but I think that the code for the TT4 will
> eventually be able to handle all of these functions for us.
>
> Allen R. Lord
> VHS Products
> KG6HXO
> Y222
>
>
>
> ---
> See what's new at AOL.com <http://www.aol.com?NCID=AOLCMP00300000001170>
> and Make AOL Your Homepage
> <http://www.aol.com/mksplash.adp?NCID=AOLCMP00300000001169>.
>

438. Anti-tracker (not)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-24 19:54:13 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 433 Message: 438

> 1) Tracking (naturally)
> 2) "Anti-Tracking" (uploading GPS waypoints to a portable)

Can we kill that term? The term "Anti-tracking" makes no sense
and implies something I guess like a road-side bomb.

Maybe what is meant here is "reverse tracking", though again,
that term does not imply functionality either. If you need a
term, call it "Waypoint Receipt" or "Station receipt" or
"station display" or anything but anti-tracker..

Thanks
Bob, WB4APR

439. Re: [SAR_APRS] Anti-tracker (not)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-24 20:02:55 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 433 Message: 439

I usually refer to it as bidirectional tracking...

Scott
N1VG

Robert Bruninga wrote:
>> 1) Tracking (naturally)
>> 2) "Anti-Tracking" (uploading GPS waypoints to a portable)
>
> Can we kill that term? The term "Anti-tracking" makes no sense
> and implies something I guess like a road-side bomb.
>
> Maybe what is meant here is "reverse tracking", though again,
> that term does not imply functionality either. If you need a
> term, call it "Waypoint Receipt" or "Station receipt" or
> "station display" or anything but anti-tracker..
>
> Thanks
> Bob, WB4APR
>
>
>
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>
>
>

440. Re: [SAR_APRS] Starting a SaR for the State Gaurd

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-24 19:42:20 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 433 Message: 440

On Mon, 24 Sep 2007 CaptALord@... wrote:

> We will have an 8 Watt transceiver based on the TinyTrak 4 as soon as the

********** Yea!

> software issues are all ironed out. Wisful thinking/ product planning calls for
> the following features:
>
> 1) Tracking (naturally)
> 2) "Anti-Tracking" (uploading GPS waypoints to a portable)
> 3) Digipeating
> 4) back-up voice communications

Sweet. All of the designs I've seen so far are only for tracking/anti-tracking/digipeating. Perhaps you throw a switch to take it out of APRS mode and it becomes a voice handheld? That'd be nice for SAR.

It's common to have one radio w/two battery packs then sometimes another radio w/two battery packs, PER TEAM. Murphy's law operates during SAR missions too.

If each team could carry one SAR radio (commercial freq.) and two packs, plus a tracker/back-up voice rig per team, weight would not have increased significantly but we'd have gained additional capabilities for that team. Of course we'd have to monitor a 2m frequency at base but having two radios there is easy. We already have that in our comm truck.

> 5) Programmable operation frequencies
>
> It is a might tall order, but I think that the code for the TT4 will
> eventually be able to handle all of these functions for us.

Yes. I'm a member of the TT4/TT/OT/T2 mailing lists, so am _trying_ to keep track of all of the developments. I expect in a year's time there'll be several options to do most of the above list, deployable in the field.

The T2 firmware is further along than the TT4 code but I expect the two projects to offer similar features in the long run.

When Scott gets the T2 well into production I expect he'll be off and running on his ARM-based TNC project again. When that device comes out we'll see another jump in technology. Competition. It's all good.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

441. Re: [SAR_APRS] Anti-tracker (not)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-24 20:17:57 UTC
From: Charles L. Sparke
Topic: 433 Message: 441

I'm not doing APRS yet (still learning), but have to agree on the usage of the term "anti-tracking." My thought was it was some form of encryption or way so unauthorized stations could NOT track the sending station. Very confusing for us beginners.

Charles Sparke
KC7JKJ
Pershing County Search and Rescue, Inc.
Lovelock, NV

Robert Bruninga wrote:

> > 1) Tracking (naturally)
> > 2) "Anti-Tracking" (uploading GPS waypoints to a portable)
>
> Can we kill that term? The term "Anti-tracking" makes no sense
> and implies something I guess like a road-side bomb.
>
> Maybe what is meant here is "reverse tracking", though again,
> that term does not imply functionality either. If you need a
> term, call it "Waypoint Receipt" or "Station receipt" or
> "station display" or anything but anti-tracker..
>
> Thanks
> Bob, WB4APR
>
>

442. Re: [SAR_APRS] Anti-tracker (not)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-24 20:11:10 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 433 Message: 442

I have always found the term "anti-tracking" to be counterintuitive, so I will try to use a better term. How about "Position Exchange Display" ?

Allen

********** See what's new at http://www.aol.com

443. Re: [SAR_APRS] Anti-tracker (not)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-24 20:35:52 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 433 Message: 443

On Mon, 24 Sep 2007, Charles L. Sparke wrote:

> I'm not doing APRS yet (still learning), but have to agree on the usage
> of the term "anti-tracking." My thought was it was some form of
> encryption or way so unauthorized stations could NOT track the sending
> station. Very confusing for us beginners.

Yep, understand.

The term came from this device:

<http://info.aprs.net/index.php?title=AntiTracker>

Which was the first device I know of that provided only decode and
waypoint-creating functions alone. It had no tracker capability.

Discarding the term may result in a variety of different terms being
used which all mean the same thing.

Perhaps we can vote on the "proper" term (perhaps on the APRSSIG)
and come to a consensus?

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

444. Re: [SAR_APRS] Starting a SaR for the State Gaurd

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-25 01:01:15 UTC
From: Matt a
Topic: 433 Message: 444

Thanks, I have d700 and d7 in my position and division is wanting the same for our area radio group.

----- Original Message ----
From: "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, September 24, 2007 2:28:16 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Starting a SaR for the State Gaurd

On Sat, 22 Sep 2007, projecthiker wrote:

> Im fixing to take on a task of startinf a search and rescue group for
> the SCSG. I would like some input on the best practices and equipment
> to present the General to establish what he wants. Again all help is
> appreciated. 73's kf4nxs.

You didn't mention what area you wished to cover, whether you'll be deployed at times outside that area (and so have to take your communications infrastructure along with you), whether there already exist SAR groups in the area you'll be serving, etc.

Since you asked in an APRS group (I also saw a post from you in the sarcomm group), I'll give you an APRS answer:

Investigate these sorts of things:

Group 1: Ready-made:
Kenwood D710A 2m/440 mobile radio, add GPS. Voice + APRS.
Kenwood DH-D7A(G) 2m/440 HT radio, add GPS. Voice + APRS.
Alinco DR-135TP 2m w/built-in TNC, add GPS. Voice or APRS.
Alinco DR-135T 2m w/T2-135 TNC from N1VG, add GPS. Voice or APRS

D710A and DR-135T w/T2-135 can be used as digipeaters. The other two cannot.

Group 2: DIY:
OpenTracker OT1+. Add radio and GPS. Receives also and puts stations on the GPS map screen.
TinyTrak3. Add radio and GPS. Transmit only.
2m radio + Kantronics KPC-3+ TNC.

There are a few low-power transmit-only devices in the 300mW to 500mW range either out now or soon to be out, plus an 8W tx-only model that Byonics sells as well. I personally wish to avoid the TX-only and lowest power models in favor of TX/RX + digipeating models. I wish to be able to take the digipeater infrastructure with me into the woods.

Group 3: Out RealSoonNow cool stuff:
Tracker2 TNC from N1VG (T2-135 is one variant of this TNC)
Tinytrak4 TNC from Byonics
www.rpc-electronics .com (RTrak)
N1VG: 6W TX/RX + Tracker2 TNC in one case
KC0VXL: OT1+ w/Radiometrix TX

I'm sure I'll think of a few more right after I send this, but
that's normal.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo. com/~archer/ > XASTIR: <www.xastir. org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. " -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

_____
Be a better Heartthrob. Get better relationship answers from someone who knows. Yahoo!
Answers - Check it out.
http://answers.yahoo.com/dir/?link=list&sid=396545433

445. Re: [SAR_APRS] Anti-tracker (not)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-25 02:13:46 UTC
From: Keith VE7GDH
Topic: 433 Message: 445

Curt WE7U wrote...

> The term came from this device:
> <http://info.aprs.net/index.php?title=AntiTracker>
> Perhaps we can vote on the "proper" term (perhaps on the APRSSIG)
> and come to a consensus?

Yeah, I've always thought the name "anti-tracker" was a bit
counter-intuitive too. It looks like that is a specific device made by
Radioactive Networks in Australia...
http://www.radio-active.net.au/web/tracking/antitracker.html

I would think something like "waypoint output" would be a more generic term.

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

446. Re: [SAR_APRS] Anti-tracker (not)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-09-25 03:42:13 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 433 Message: 446

In a message dated 9/24/2007 7:40:20 P.M. Pacific Daylight Time,
ve7gdh@... writes:

I would think something like "waypoint output" would be a more generic term.

Oh! It sounds like a poll is coming on! I like "postion exchange", since it
works so well for Rhinos. (The radios, not the beasts...)

Allen
VHS

********** See what's new at http://www.aol.com

447. Trackers/K-9er's Now Have Their Own Employment, Equipment, Jobs,

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-02 00:55:58 UTC
From: Ed
Topic: 447 Message: 447

Trackers/K-9er's Now Have Their Own Employment, Equipment, Jobs,
Auction Database

I wanted to post this message from the Man_Tracking_University Yahoo
Group. I had mentioned that the Yahoo Group software is somewhat
limiting as it applies to fulfilling the needs of a Group of
Specialists.

I posted to my group members that I had an idea to correct this
situation. The posting said: ...." I am finding the Yahoo Group
software to be a little inflexible for some ideas that I have been
exploring. Since I am retired but in the software business, I have
been exploring with an idea of having my team create
"auction/classified ads/wanted to buy" software. No, I am not trying
to compete with eBay. I am just trying to create an environment for
Trackers and K-9 Specialists to exchange our materials besides being
"knowledge people". I am starting to believe that Trackers and K-9
Specialists could use this idea for advertising. It would be possible
with the software to:

1) Post Tracker/K-9 schools and training courses.
2) Register themselves and their credentials and pursue "Work for Hire".
3) Sell used and new equipment or products.
4) Post ads for wanted equipment or products.
5) Post ads for any material that you wish to sell, for example, ATV's,
GPS's, etc.

I would not limit the software and would make the categories open for
expansion by members to add books, ebooks, and other subcategories.

I am looking for input from all members as to:

a) What you wish to see in the software's capabilities?
b) Your general input on my idea?"....

Privately, the response was awesome. One of the members suggested
.."Ed, It would be good to have a regional breakout in the employment
section, by state and country. Gear sales are good..."

So I had the software created and have posted it on a special URL
named: www.mantrackinguniversity.com/
<http://www.mantrackinguniversity.com/>

Basically the inputs from members who contacted me expressed that the
database include Employment, Equipment, Jobs, and Items for Sale or
Wanted for Trackers/K-9 people.

So I created a new website appropriately at URL:
http://www.mantrackinguniversity.com/
<http://www.mantrackinguniversity.com/> and linked the website to a special Employment, Equipment, Jobs, Auction database.

The site software is designed to address Tracker/K-9 requirements as well as other needs.

The Tracker Section addresses: Books, Training, Classes, Schools, Look for Employment- Jobs, Equipment for Sale and Equipment Wanted, Posting Scheduled Meetings, etc.

The K-9 Section addresses: Books, Courses, Dogs for Sale, Equipment for Sale, Equipment Wanted, a Jobs Section, Meetings, Schools and Training Classes.

You can list any item and add your own sub-category.

The Jobs, Post Want Ads, Swap, Sell, and Buy SERVICE IS FREE to any members of this group.

You can even open up your own store to sell many, many items but this is not a free service.

Please let me know if you need any changes to the software.

Regards,

Ed, Moderator of Man Tracking University .. Yahoo Group

448. Introduction and Request for Information

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-03 16:50:46 UTC
From: Craig McKerlie
Topic: 448 Message: 448

Hi!
I am Craig McKerlie N4KMY and am part of NC CERT (North Carolina
Canine Emergency Response Team) and am responsible for communications
for the team. I am new to APRS and have been researching APRS and its
uses in SARS.

I have found both the minitraker and dmapper websites. By what I read,
I was sure that these would be an asset to the team. However, some of
the board members believe that there are still many problems with
these and APRS for our uses. Every member of the team are licensed hams.

In any case, can any one give me information and or links that I can
use to find a good solution for us and to prove to the board members
that this is a valuable asset to our team. We use both ground teams
and K-9 teams.

I am considering the following:
minitrakers, dmapper, and a tnc in the com van.
We have both HAM hts and public service hts, in the van we have a
yeasu FT-857D and have a dedicated laptop with Maptech Pro.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

73,
Craig McKerlie
N4KMY

449. Re: [SAR_APRS] Introduction and Request for Information

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-03 20:50:26 UTC
From: Matt a
Topic: 448 Message: 449

Hey Craig, I would go it like this. Each search team have one tracker, useing other than .390 so you only have aprs traffic pertaining to your group. Now set the transmit for 1 min. so if you loose signal on one tracker due to entering a building and nothing is heard from them you know where they are, at least the building they are in. also set up a repeater of some sort if needed for the freq. you use. Believe me some areas you get around a building and you wont see some radio's, and as always get the antenna as high as you can. Basicly aprs in search and rescue is a huge benifit because you can track each group in case something unexpected happens.

----- Original Message ----
From: Craig McKerlie <kg4vpj@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 3, 2007 12:50:46 PM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Introduction and Request for Information

Hi!
I am Craig McKerlie N4KMY and am part of NC CERT (North Carolina
Canine Emergency Response Team) and am responsible for communications
for the team. I am new to APRS and have been researching APRS and its
uses in SARS.

I have found both the minitraker and dmapper websites. By what I read,
I was sure that these would be an asset to the team. However, some of
the board members believe that there are still many problems with
these and APRS for our uses. Every member of the team are licensed hams.

In any case, can any one give me information and or links that I can
use to find a good solution for us and to prove to the board members
that this is a valuable asset to our team. We use both ground teams
and K-9 teams.

I am considering the following:
minitrakers, dmapper, and a tnc in the com van.
We have both HAM hts and public service hts, in the van we have a
yeasu FT-857D and have a dedicated laptop with Maptech Pro.

Any help would be greatly appreciated.

73,
Craig McKerlie
N4KMY

Moody friends. Drama queens. Your life? Nope! - their life, your story. Play Sims Stories at Yahoo! Games.
http://sims.yahoo.com/

450. Re: [SAR_APRS] Introduction and Request for Information

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-03 20:54:50 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 448 Message: 450
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

451. Re: Introduction and Request for Information

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-04 10:57:48 UTC
From: Craig McKerlie
Topic: 448 Message: 451

I should elaborate a little more.
We have a converted ambulance, that serves as our com van. It has both Ham and public safety radios in it. We have a 50 foot hydraulic mast, which we can affix up to 4 antennas to. We are authorized to use both HAM and public safety frequencies.

Normally we deploy up to 5 teams consisting of team members with and without K-9.

If needed we could deploy more teams as we do have 5 UHF, and 5 VHF HTs. This does not include HAM HTs.

My current thinking is to use at least 5 minitrakers attached to HTs. Connecting a TNC between the FT-857D and a dedicated one laptop with MapTech Pro and Dmapper installed. Since, most of the time the teams will be on foot, the reporting time was going to be approximately every 3 to 10 minutes. If a team was to be on the water or traveling via a ATV or other faster moving mode, then I was going to have the reporting time for those teams shortened to every 2 to 3 minutes.

While we do do collapsed structure, urban searches, we also spend a lot of time in more rural areas. So, my plan was to be flexible based on conditions, mode of travel, and the area to be searched.

However, my chief is not convinced that this is a reliable or working option. He seems to think that there are a lot of problems or bugs to be worked out in deploying this or any APRS system for our needs.

So along with advice, I need information that I can use to convince him otherwise. In particular, advice, information, experience, problems, and solutions for using the minitrakers and the setup I described above.

Thanks and 73!
Craig McKerlie
N4KMY

P.S. Thanks for the input thus far!

452. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Introduction and Request for Information

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-04 18:26:57 UTC
From: D.G.
Topic: 448 Message: 452

You will love this video about emergency vehicles [see KB6EMS] getting parking tickets.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6JTMnvIc9M

Craig McKerlie <kg4vpj@...> wrote:
I should elaborate a little more.
We have a converted ambulance, that serves as our com van. It has both Ham and public safety radios in it. We have a 50 foot hydraulic mast, which we can affix up to 4 antennas to. We are authorized to use both HAM and public safety frequencies.

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My current thinking is to use at least 5 minitrakers attached to HTs. Connecting a TNC between the FT-857D and a dedicated one laptop with MapTech Pro and Dmapper installed. Since, most of the time the teams will be on foot, the reporting time was going to be approximately every 3 to 10 minutes. If a team was to be on the water or traveling via a ATV or other faster moving mode, then I was going to have the reporting time for those teams shortened to every 2 to 3 minutes.

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Thanks and 73!
Craig McKerlie
N4KMY

P.S. Thanks for the input thus far!

Building a website is a piece of cake.
Yahoo! Small Business gives you all the tools to get online.

453. Re: [SAR_APRS] Introduction and Request for Information

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-05 00:15:52 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 448 Message: 453

On Wed, 3 Oct 2007, Craig McKerlie wrote:

> I am new to APRS and have been researching APRS and its
> uses in SARS.
>
> I have found both the minitraker and dmapper websites. By what I read,
> I was sure that these would be an asset to the team.

Try these sites:

<http://info.aprs.net>
<http://wiki.ampr2.net/nwaprs/SearchAndRescue>
<http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/aprs_capabilities.html>
<http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/xastir/SAR.html>
<http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/mock-search.txt>
<http://wetnet.net/~we7u/>

> I am considering the following:
> minitrakers, dmapper, and a tnc in the com van.
> We have both HAM hts and public service hts, in the van we have a
> yeasu FT-857D and have a dedicated laptop with Maptech Pro.

If you're already well down the Windows path, the software you're
describing may be a good option. You and your possible replacements
on scene will need to be intimately familiar with the operation of
all of the software pieces and how they play together though.

As far as the field hardware, I'd encourage you to go for all-in-one
or nearly all-in-one packages rather than putting something together
yourself. The comm-van stuff is less critical and nearly any
2-meter radio and TNC can be made to work there.

If you want my vision of what SAR and APRS should be able to do, see
the 2nd link above in the section entitled: "Network Infrastructure
for SAR". For what it's worth, the Tracker2 TNC is finally
available for sale as of last week.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

454. Re: [SAR_APRS] Introduction and Request for Information

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-05 00:20:32 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 448 Message: 454

All right, I give up! What is a " minitraker"?

Allen
VHS
KG6HXO

********** See what's new at http://www.aol.com

455. Re: [SAR_APRS] Introduction and Request for Information

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-05 01:31:16 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 448 Message: 455

Craig, you may be interested in a free/Open Source CAD software that
among its other virtues, reads and maps APRS data.

It's in beta testing at the moment, and there's a 'kick-the-tires'
installation with a guest login at

http://kolamiannapolis.org/tickets/

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD

On Wed, 3 Oct 2007, Craig McKerlie wrote:
>
>
> > I am new to APRS and have been researching APRS and its
> > uses in SARS.
> >
> > I have found both the minitraker and dmapper websites. By what I read,
> > I was sure that these would be an asset to the team.
>

456. OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus far though

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-07 02:21:06 UTC
From: Craig McKerlie
Topic: 456 Message: 456

OK!
I am guessing that I was too general in my inquiry to get the information that I wanted or need. BTW...I was corrected, the 50 foot mast is not hydraulic it is pneumatic.

So let me, pose my questions this way.

I understand the APRS can be useful, but the weak link here seems to be the GPS signal. With searches that take team members into areas with a lot of dense trees and vegetation, the GPS signal tends to get lost. This kind of defeats the use and purpose of APRS. If you can not get a GPS signal, you will have nothing to transmit.

What if any help can anyone give me on keeping a good GPS signal while searching a swampy area, or area with a fairly dense canopy such as that found in the Carolinas which can then be used with APRS.

Thank You!
Craig McKerlie
N4KMY

457. Re: [SAR_APRS] OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus far though

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-07 02:38:23 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 456 Message: 457

Start with a sensitive receiver. Anything with a SiRFstar III is good.
I get a solid lock indoors, and I've heard reports that they'll work
in a basement.

Also, keep it somewhere it'll have a good view of the sky. The CMC
Rescue comm center harness will fit a Deluo GPS (including their
SiRF-based Pro model) in an elastic strap on the shoulder, though it
wasn't really intended for that.

Radio coverage is usually a bigger problem - at least around here, where
it's all narrow canyons.

Scott
N1VG

Craig McKerlie wrote:
> OK!
> I am guessing that I was too general in my inquiry to get the
> information that I wanted or need. BTW...I was corrected, the 50 foot
> mast is not hydraulic it is pneumatic.
>
> So let me, pose my questions this way.
>
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> be the GPS signal. With searches that take team members into areas
> with a lot of dense trees and vegetation, the GPS signal tends to get
> lost. This kind of defeats the use and purpose of APRS. If you can not
> get a GPS signal, you will have nothing to transmit.
>
> What if any help can anyone give me on keeping a good GPS signal while
> searching a swampy area, or area with a fairly dense canopy such as
> that found in the Carolinas which can then be used with APRS.
>
> Thank You!
> Craig McKerlie
> N4KMY
>
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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458. Re: [SAR_APRS] OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus far though

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-07 04:45:31 UTC
From: Matt a
Topic: 456 Message: 458

Craig, My etrex has no problem on the trails in the carolinas. I sometimes take it with me during my hikes and havent had a problem as of yet.

----- Original Message ----
From: Craig McKerlie <kg4vpj@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, October 6, 2007 10:21:06 PM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus far though

OK!
I am guessing that I was too general in my inquiry to get the
information that I wanted or need. BTW...I was corrected, the 50 foot
mast is not hydraulic it is pneumatic.

So let me, pose my questions this way.

I understand the APRS can be useful, but the weak link here seems to
be the GPS signal. With searches that take team members into areas
with a lot of dense trees and vegetation, the GPS signal tends to get
lost. This kind of defeats the use and purpose of APRS. If you can not
get a GPS signal, you will have nothing to transmit.

What if any help can anyone give me on keeping a good GPS signal while
searching a swampy area, or area with a fairly dense canopy such as
that found in the Carolinas which can then be used with APRS.

Thank You!
Craig McKerlie
N4KMY

Check out the hottest 2008 models today at Yahoo! Autos.
http://autos.yahoo.com/new_cars.html

459. RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-07 09:22:05 UTC
From: Mike R
Topic: 459 Message: 459

Posted by: "Craig McKerlie" kg4vpj@... kg4vpj
Date: Sat Oct 6, 2007 7:21 pm ((PDT))
What if any help can anyone give me on keeping a good GPS signal while searching a swampy area, or area with a fairly dense canopy such as that found in the Carolinas which can then be used with APRS.
Thank You!
Craig McKerlie
N4KMY

Craig

1. Use an external antenna
2. Place the antenna where it won't be obstructed by your body - in the top of your pack or inside your hat - it works !

Mike

460. RE: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-07 14:17:11 UTC
From: Daniel Nye
Topic: 459 Message: 460

Also, the new Garmin(s) are noticeably better at reception. I have a 60c and a new Rino. The Rino will acquire a signal in my house!

Dan

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Mike R
Sent: Sunday, October 07, 2007 3:22 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

Posted by: "Craig McKerlie" kg4vpj@... kg4vpj
Date: Sat Oct 6, 2007 7:21 pm ((PDT))
What if any help can anyone give me on keeping a good GPS signal while searching a swampy area, or area with a fairly dense canopy such as that found in the Carolinas which can then be used with APRS.
Thank You!
Craig McKerlie
N4KMY

Craig
1. Use an external antenna
2. Place the antenna where it won't be obstructed by your body - in the top of your pack or inside your hat - it works !
Mike

461. Re: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-07 15:17:05 UTC
From: kc2mmi_whitelisted email
Topic: 459 Message: 461

Craig, the SirfStar III receivers are incredibly more sensitive than older units, I've seen then work indoors (ground floor of a wood frame house, no windows in the room) and in a car, even located up between the sun visor and metal roof. If you are under a canopy you will want to ask thespecific sensitivity of the receiver in your GPS, and see if an external antenna can boost that.

The SirfStar III is, I believe, now one generation behind the latest most sensitive receivers, so it is a good place to start but not the best available.

Free pop3 email with a spam filter.
http://www.bluebottle.com/tag/5

462. RE: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-07 15:44:04 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 459 Message: 462

On Sun, 7 Oct 2007, Daniel Nye wrote:

> Also, the new Garmin(s) are noticeably better at reception. I have a 60c and
> a new Rino. The Rino will acquire a signal in my house!

Some of the latest Garmins are using the SiRFStar-III chipset. With
a GPS with that chipset, as long as then antenna is oriented
properly and somewhat high on the body, you should keep a good lock
under tree cover as long as enough satellites are in the sky
overhead, not blocked by dirt/rock.

There are several GPS vendors that are using that chipset.

Try here for APRS-compatible ones:

http://info.aprs.net

Look at the hardware page, GPS sections.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

463. Re: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-07 16:08:21 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 459 Message: 463

If you're only using the GPS for an APRS tracker, consider a 'smart antenna' type, where the antenna and GPS receiver are all in the same box, and you get a serial cable out of it instead of coax. There's no worry about signal loss in the feed line, and serial cables take a lot more abuse than coax.

Scott
N1VG

> Craig
>
> 1. Use an external antenna
> 2. Place the antenna where it won't be obstructed by your body - in the
> top of your pack or inside your hat - it works !
>
> Mike
>
>

464. RE: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-07 23:20:09 UTC
From: Rik Head
Topic: 459 Message: 464

We have used GPS extensively for S&R in the Ozi bush/mountainous areas and the results using Etrex range from very good to useless reception. The latest generation of GPS engines have significantly improved reception but the same rules apply - keep the unit/antenna as high and as clear of obstructions as possible - we have the GPS in a pouch on the shoulder of our search packs

I too have had my GPS in my hat at times to improve reception - on occasions we have stood in the middle of a creek in a steep heavily wooded narrow valley holding the GPS as high as possible in order to try for a meaningful reading - this was the only spot where we could see some unobstructed sky

Rik Head
VK3KAN
AlpineSAR

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Scott Miller
Sent: Monday, 8 October 2007 02:08
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

If you're only using the GPS for an APRS tracker, consider a 'smart antenna' type, where the antenna and GPS receiver are all in the same box, and you get a serial cable out of it instead of coax. There's no worry about signal loss in the feed line, and serial cables take a lot more abuse than coax.

Scott
N1VG

> Craig
>
> 1. Use an external antenna
> 2. Place the antenna where it won't be obstructed by your body - in
> the top of your pack or inside your hat - it works !
>
> Mike
>
>

Yahoo! Groups Links

465. RE: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-08 01:54:29 UTC
From: Keith VE7GDH
Topic: 459 Message: 465

Rik VK3KAN wrote...

> I too have had my GPS in my hat at times to improve reception - on
> occasions we have stood in the middle of a creek in a steep heavily
> wooded narrow valley holding the GPS as high as possible in order
> to try for a meaningful reading - this was the only spot where we
> could see some unobstructed sky

I don't think I ever went so far as to stand in the middle of a creek, but one trick to keep in mind is that you can look at the satellite view to see where in the sky the GPS satellites are supposed to be at that point in time. No guarantee if the tree canopy is so dense you just can't see the sky, but knowing where they are, if there are some gaps for a signal to get through, you can sometimes know which tree to not stand behind so you can get that needed third signal. This was on an old 12XL perhaps 10-12 years ago. I would think the SIRF III receivers would be a lot more sensitive these days. Of course, if the GPS receiver just can't see the sky, don't forget that you still have a compass to keep you heading the right direction until you can get a lock again.

The next tip might not apply to your situation, but travel on skis is typically a lot faster than on foot. I can think of many trails I have been on in the past where I potentially would have had the sky obscured for long periods at walking speeds. On skis, it's usually just a matter of a few seconds to get a lock again, confirming that I was still on track... at least on the return trip while heading downhill!

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

466. RE: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-08 16:19:03 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 459 Message: 466

On Mon, 8 Oct 2007, Rik Head wrote:

> I too have had my GPS in my hat at times to improve reception - on occasions
> we have stood in the middle of a creek in a steep heavily wooded narrow
> valley holding the GPS as high as possible in order to try for a meaningful
> reading - this was the only spot where we could see some unobstructed sky

I've had one instance where the GPS had a completely unobstructed
view of the sky but still couldn't get a position. A glance at the
satellite view screen showed four satellites visible, all in a line
across the sky. I had to wait for the satellite geometry to change
so that I could get a position.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

467. Re: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-08 17:00:09 UTC
From: Mike
Topic: 459 Message: 467

I've also had extreme cloud cover block the signal at times.

Mike
----- Original Message -----
From: Curt, WE7U
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, October 08, 2007 12:19
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

On Mon, 8 Oct 2007, Rik Head wrote:

> I too have had my GPS in my hat at times to improve reception - on occasions
> we have stood in the middle of a creek in a steep heavily wooded narrow
> valley holding the GPS as high as possible in order to try for a meaningful
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--
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468. RE: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-09 00:06:36 UTC
From: Rik Head
Topic: 459 Message: 468

I get that problem occasionally - when you are out on Port Phillip Bay and your GPS does not wotk you wonder why - until you check the satellite alignment

Rik Head

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Curt, WE7U
Sent: Tuesday, 9 October 2007 02:19
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] RE: OK, I am not getting what I hoped for...Thanks for the input thus fa

On Mon, 8 Oct 2007, Rik Head wrote:

> I too have had my GPS in my hat at times to improve reception - on
> occasions we have stood in the middle of a creek in a steep heavily
> wooded narrow valley holding the GPS as high as possible in order to
> try for a meaningful reading - this was the only spot where we could
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I've had one instance where the GPS had a completely unobstructed view of the sky but still couldn't get a position. A glance at the satellite view screen showed four satellites visible, all in a line across the sky. I had to wait for the satellite geometry to change so that I could get a position.

--
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"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

Yahoo! Groups Links

469. OziExplorer and APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-09 04:10:00 UTC
From: Max Wheatley
Topic: 469 Message: 469

Hi Guys

I just love OziExplorer, partly 'cause I have a full set of TIFF maps.

So far all the APRS programmes I have looked at have fallen well short of what I want. The main issuse that none of them support any form of local grid system, such as NZMG (New Zealand Map Grid) or UTM.

Since the majority of other groups I want to work with all use NZMG and that is what the commonly available maps are printed in lat and log are not much help.

AGW Tracker comes close, but agin dosn't support NZMG and although it should read TIFF maps, mine are in NZMG which it dosn't know about so when imported the calibration is junk.

Now the other day when I was googleing I found oziaprs & netaprs from www.radio-active.net.au.

oziaprs works fine but only tracks one moving object

netaprs looks like just the thing but will not install on Windows 2000, complains about .net and wants 1.1.4322 which of course is long since gone, you install the current version 2.0.50727 and it still asks for 1.1.4322.

Now I tried a bit of regisrty hacking, anyone tell me the exact key that is being checked for .net version, but didn't get very far.

Send an email to radio-active and no responce.

So I guess has anyone got any ideas, anyone know how to make netaprs install ???

Max

470. Re: [SAR_APRS] OziExplorer and APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-09 15:33:44 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 469 Message: 470

On Tue, 9 Oct 2007, Max Wheatley wrote:

> I just love OziExplorer, partly 'cause I have a full set of TIFF maps.
>
> So far all the APRS programmes I have looked at have fallen well short
> of what I want. The main issuse that none of them support any form of
> local grid system, such as NZMG (New Zealand Map Grid) or UTM.

> oziaprs works fine but only tracks one moving object

> So I guess has anyone got any ideas, anyone know how to make netaprs
> install ???

Nope, but have you looked at Xastir? It supports (some) geoTIFF
maps, perhaps yours. It has UTM and MGRS grids. It doesn't have
NZMG, but with a bit of programming it could be added, by you or by
somebody else. Xastir is open-source and can support tracking 10's
of thousands of stations.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
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The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

471. Re: [SAR_APRS] OziExplorer and APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-09 16:36:03 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 469 Message: 471

Max, another option:

You may have seen earlier postings of mine re Tickets, a Free/Open Source CAD system. Its mapping functions integrate Google's, and it currently includes UTM. Since there's some lat/lng-to-NZMG conversion software around, I wdn't expect adding that to represent a major challenge. It tracks via an APRS connection. It's pretty much a general-purpose CAD at the moment, and is in beta test in the hands of mebbe two dozen folks.

I'll also note that Google's maps seem to provide, at least to these eyes. OK-level NZ mapping, but you'll be far better informed. They have provided NZ and Australia geo-coding for some time now.

Tickets is a web application and you'd need access to a web server of yr own, or else a web host. There's a kick-the-tires installation available with a guest login at
http://kolamiannapolis.org/tickets/

If this is worth pursuing further, do let me know and I'll clean off some of the test runs that are there and provide you with a usable login.

Arnie Shore
Annapolis

Max Wheatley wrote:
>
> Hi Guys
>
> I just love OziExplorer, partly 'cause I have a full set of TIFF maps.
>
> So far all the APRS programmes I have looked at have fallen well short
> of what I want. The main issuse that none of them support any form of
> local grid system, such as NZMG (New Zealand Map Grid) or UTM.
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> Since the majority of other groups I want to work with all use NZMG
> and that is what the commonly available maps are printed in lat and
> log are not much help.
>
>
>

472. Re: OziExplorer and APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-09 17:47:50 UTC
From: kc2mmi_whitelisted email
Topic: 469 Message: 472

Max, the dot-net releases are not cumulative, so Version 2.x is something spearate from version 1.x, and will not contain anything the earlier version(s) did. This means you need to install them "all" not just the latest one.

Oddly enough installing dot-net apparently changes the system permanently--you can later UNinstall a version, and things that "required" it to run, will still run just fine after it has been UNinstalled.

This dot-net stuff is problematic as best, MS has taken a lot of flack for it.

Find out how you can get spam free email.
http://www.bluebottle.com/tag/3

473. Trackers broadcasting on Ham vs MURS for SAR

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-10 18:13:18 UTC
From: riverridge_wi
Topic: 473 Message: 473

We have a discussion going in our group and we would like to get input from SAR groups further along the technology trail than we are.

The concern is the transportation of trackers by non-Ham volunteer searchers broadcasting on Ham frequencies (and APRS frequency specifically). That is, we would like to be able to hang GPS trackers on volunteer searchers who have nothing to do with the units other than transporting them and most likely, are not Ham licensed people. We would have Law Enforcement people involved in any search, both as searchers and at Incident command, who may or may not be Ham Licensed and would probably have Ham licensed people involved, but not necessarily.

Has anyone investigated the legalities of when and how trackers can be used on what channels? One suggestion was to move away from simple all-in-one trackers broadcasting on APRS frequency and move to radios that could transmit on MURS frequencies.

Does it make a difference who owns the equipment -- Ham licensed individual vs the Sheriff's department? Does it matter who (that is what licenses that they have) is at Incident Command and can the person running the Laptop running the GPS tracking software (Xastir for example) be considered to be "in control" of the mobile GPS trackers hanging on the volunteer searchers? Does it make a difference if that Laptop person is Ham licensed?

Any thoughts and discussion positions would be appreciated.

Many thanx in advance..... Jim

Jim Tolbert
RiverRidge@...

474. Re: [SAR_APRS] Trackers broadcasting on Ham vs MURS for SAR

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-10 20:14:47 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 473 Message: 474

On Wed, 10 Oct 2007, riverridge_wi wrote:

> The concern is the transportation of trackers by non-Ham volunteer
> searchers broadcasting on Ham frequencies (and APRS frequency
> specifically). That is, we would like to be able to hang GPS trackers
> on volunteer searchers who have nothing to do with the units other
> than transporting them and most likely, are not Ham licensed people.
> We would have Law Enforcement people involved in any search, both as
> searchers and at Incident command, who may or may not be Ham Licensed
> and would probably have Ham licensed people involved, but not necessarily.

This was just discussed on another list this week. It's a common
subject that's brought up on the APRSSIG as well, like 2 or 3 times
a year. Here are a few excerpts from that other list that may
answer a few questions. Then again, weren't you part of that
conversation over there?

> On Tue, 9 Oct 2007 vhsproducts@... wrote:
>
> > I seem to remember this question being addressed by the FCC
> > enforcement
> > people in a recent seminar (possibly in Dayton?) and reported
> > in a Ham magazine.
> > The response was something along the lines of
> > " Quit being so damn legalistic, if we thought it was a
> > violation, we would
> > have enforced it!"

From: "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...>
Reply-To: TinyTrak@yahoogroups.com
To: TinyTrak@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [TinyTrak] Re: Newbie Questions, is Ham license required?

On Tue, 9 Oct 2007, Charles Gallo wrote:

> They are using "automatic" control - sort of like most repeaters.
> I know that the way we set it up, there is always a ham within
> 5-10 minutes of the tracker

Take a gander at this link:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2007/06/01/100/>

> Has anyone investigated the legalities of when and how trackers can be
> used on what channels? One suggestion was to move away from simple

> all-in-one trackers broadcasting on APRS frequency and move to radios
> that could transmit on MURS frequencies.

There are quite a few people that have done similar things. As far
as Xastir itself, there are no restrictions on it other than the GPL
license (I'm one of the developers on the Xastir project).

As far as using the APRS protocol on other frequencies, my read is
that you can't restrict the protocol in this manner so you're ok
there. APRS software _can_ be restricted in this fashion, but if
the particular software/firmware doesn't have that restriction,
you're good to go. Scott Miller's OpenTrackers/Tracker2's are being
used in commercial applications quite a bit.

> Does it make a difference who owns the equipment -- Ham licensed
> individual vs the Sheriff's department?

I'd have to think about that one. Ownership of the ham equipment is
somewhat important in the ham rules. Anyone have thoughts on this
one?

> Does it matter who (that is
> what licenses that they have) is at Incident Command and can the
> person running the Laptop running the GPS tracking software (Xastir
> for example) be considered to be "in control" of the mobile GPS
> trackers hanging on the volunteer searchers?

Yes, that works under the FCC ham rules. That ham can be the
control point for the automatically controlled trackers on the
searchers, assuming the non-ham SAR personnel aren't sending
messages and such (which can be done with HamHUD/D700/D710/D7a/APRS
software).

If the non-ham just has access to an on/off switch and can't change
the frequency or other transmitter parameters, or initiate
transmissions on their own, etc, then you're good. It's then the
APRS hardware that is automatically controlling the transmitter, not
the non-ham.

> Does it make a
> difference if that Laptop person is Ham licensed?

They wouldn't need to be if they're just receiving positions. If
they initiate transmissions via the menus, create objects/items,
send messages, etc, then they'd need to be a ham. You'd also need a
ham somewhere in the search area that is the control person for all
the trackers.

FWIW: We're trying to set up for doing APRS in our county. At
least I'm trying to but I've had limited time to pursue this for the
last few years. We've managed to get a club callsign for the SAR
group which we'll put on several trackers. I'm the responsible
person for that callsign. We've tested at a couple of mock searches

and have had mixed results, using TinyTrak I's/II's, and PocketTrackers. Eventually we'll switch to using Tracker2's so that every SAR team is a pre-emptive SARn-N digipeater for every other SAR team, and attempt to purchase all of the equipment for our 501(c)3 SAR organization. We'll need one licensed ham on scene to be able to use the equipment, most likely this person will be at base and often that person will be me. We have many licensed hams in our SAR organization so this shouldn't be a big issue.

At base we'll have a radio/TNC and probably Xastir running. In order to be able to post objects/items that'll appear on the team's GPS map screen, the person running Xastir at base must be a licensed ham. If the person is just receiving positions then anyone can run that station, even if it's transmitting it's position out at regular intervals. You still need some ham nearby to be the control point for this station and the field trackers.

If a team will create additional waypoints on their map screen which then get sent out from the Tracker2's as APRS objects, I think that team member will need to be a licensed ham as well. Then again that depends on whether you think of that as initiating a transmission, or whether the Tracker2 is again automatically controlling the transmitter. A bit of a grey area that one. In this case the Tracker2 has to poll the GPS waypoints periodically to find new ones, then transmits new ones as APRS objects, so the transmitter is still technically under automatic control.

Anyway, other than that last issue, you should be good with one responsible ham of the proper class on-scene and all the trackers carried by non-hams, as long as what's available to them is only the on/off switch and it's a TinyTrak/OpenTracker/PocketTracker/Tracker2/whatever that's actually performing the automatic control.

My take on it. Read the rules and make up your own mind 'cuz it's your license.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

475. Re: [SAR_APRS] Trackers broadcasting on Ham vs MURS for SAR

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-10 20:21:58 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 473 Message: 475

On Wed, 10 Oct 2007, riverridge_wi wrote:

> Has anyone investigated the legalities of when and how trackers can be
> used on what channels? One suggestion was to move away from simple
> all-in-one trackers broadcasting on APRS frequency and move to radios
> that could transmit on MURS frequencies.

If you were to switch to MURS, are there MURS transmitters or
transceivers that are small/robust enough for field work? Last time
I looked at the offerings they were mostly mobile rigs, which would
work well for vehicles or base, but not for ground-pounders.

Most of the legalities of who's operating the rigs would be moot if
you went to MURS. It would certainly work as an end-run around all
the ham rules. It's still be APRS protocol (unless you went to
OpenTrac protocol), but it wouldn't be ham APRS anymore.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

476. Re: [SAR_APRS] Trackers broadcasting on Ham vs MURS for SAR

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-10 21:55:55 UTC
From: Mike
Topic: 473 Message: 476

I believe that as long as the units cannot be programmed or activated by the person carrying them it should be OK.

Mike
----- Original Message -----
From: riverridge_wi
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, October 10, 2007 14:13
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Trackers broadcasting on Ham vs MURS for SAR

We have a discussion going in our group and we would like to get input from SAR groups further along the technology trail than we are.

The concern is the transportation of trackers by non-Ham volunteer searchers broadcasting on Ham frequencies (and APRS frequency specifically). That is, we would like to be able to hang GPS trackers on volunteer searchers who have nothing to do with the units other than transporting them and most likely, are not Ham licensed people. We would have Law Enforcement people involved in any search, both as searchers and at Incident command, who may or may not be Ham Licensed and would probably have Ham licensed people involved, but not necessarily.

Has anyone investigated the legalities of when and how trackers can be used on what channels? One suggestion was to move away from simple all-in-one trackers broadcasting on APRS frequency and move to radios that could transmit on MURS frequencies.

Does it make a difference who owns the equipment -- Ham licensed individual vs the Sheriff's department? Does it matter who (that is what licenses that they have) is at Incident Command and can the person running the Laptop running the GPS tracking software (Xastir for example) be considered to be "in control" of the mobile GPS trackers hanging on the volunteer searchers? Does it make a difference if that Laptop person is Ham licensed?

Any thoughts and discussion positions would be appreciated.

Many thanx in advance..... Jim

Jim Tolbert
RiverRidge@CenturyTel.net

477. Re: OziExplorer and APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-11 01:18:57 UTC
From: kc2mmi_whitelisted email
Topic: 469 Message: 477

Arnie & all-
Beware of relying on any geocoding done by Google maps--or anyone else using NavTeq for their sourcing. I've seen the Navteq maps on Google (and car nav systems) often off by 1/4 to 1/2 mile, possibly because they have been cheaping out and using the TIGER census maps in the US. The TIGER maps are specifically not suitable for navigation purposes. Whatever NavTeq is doing--they don't seem to care about correcting their errors, even after years. google is aware of this, but apparently also unphased.

Get a free email account with anti spam protection.
http://www.bluebottle.com/tag/2

478. Re: [SAR_APRS] Trackers broadcasting on Ham vs MURS for SAR

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-11 12:26:22 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 473 Message: 478

I'm curious, doesn't APRS transmission require the license holder's Emmission Designation code to reflect that the transmission is "Data" or "Voice and Data"? I have been told that each radio used for such transmissions must also be licensed accordingly.

As a member of a SAR team, we make every effort to ensure we operate in accordance to FCC regulations (our Chief wouldn't have it any other way- neither would we). This is one reason why we haven't just adapted this technology and "let it fly". We have experimented on our own VHF freq (wanting to stay away from the APRS freq) and have played with FRS/GMRS (works ok).

Would be interested in the responses to this query. Thanks and keep up the great yahoogroup- have learned alot from "listening" to you guys.

Sincerely,
Dave Clarke
Captain, NJ Search & Rescue
Mountain Rescue- Honor Guard

----- Original Message -----
From: "Curt, WE7U"
Date: Wednesday, October 10, 2007 4:22 pm
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Trackers broadcasting on Ham vs MURS for SAR
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

> On Wed, 10 Oct 2007, riverridge_wi wrote:
>
> > Has anyone investigated the legalities of when and how
> trackers can be
> > used on what channels? One suggestion was to move away from simple
> > all-in-one trackers broadcasting on APRS frequency and move to
> radios> that could transmit on MURS frequencies.
>
> If you were to switch to MURS, are there MURS transmitters or
> transceivers that are small/robust enough for field work? Last time
> I looked at the offerings they were mostly mobile rigs, which would
> work well for vehicles or base, but not for ground-pounders.
>
> Most of the legalities of who's operating the rigs would be moot if
> you went to MURS. It would certainly work as an end-run around all
> the ham rules. It's still be APRS protocol (unless you went to
> OpenTrac protocol), but it wouldn't be ham APRS anymore.
>
> --
> Curt, WE7U: XASTIR:
> "Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
> "Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U

> The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!
>

479. Re: [SAR_APRS] Trackers broadcasting on Ham vs MURS for SAR

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-11 13:18:35 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 473 Message: 479

On Thu, 11 Oct 2007 dcassoc@... wrote:

> I'm curious, doesn't APRS transmission require the license
> holder's Emmission Designation code to reflect that the
> transmission is "Data" or "Voice and Data"? I have been told that
> each radio used for such transmissions must also be licensed
> accordingly.

Absolutely. This is why most can't just plop APRS gadgets on their commercial SAR VHF or UHF frequencies. Their license specifically states which modulation methods they may use, and most of these were originally requested with only narrow-band FM voice as the emission. They'd need a modification to their license in order to use APRS.

MURS however doesn't have emissions restrictions like this as far as I know. It's been a while since I looked at the rules for MURS, so perhaps someone more familiar with that service can give the details.

> As a member of a SAR team, we make every effort to ensure we
> operate in accordance to FCC regulations (our Chief wouldn't have
> it any other way- neither would we). This is one reason why we
> haven't just adapted this technology and "let it fly". We have
> experimented on our own VHF freq (wanting to stay away from the
> APRS freq) and have played with FRS/GMRS (works ok).

We're planning to stay _on_ the ham APRS frequency for our SAR operations.

Using a path like this: "WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR7-7" will allow us to use the APRS infrastructure if it's available to us in our search area, while also allowing pre-emptive SAR7-7 digipeaters to digipeat us to fill in those holes where the APRS infrastructure is lacking.

It just so happens the trackers we'll be carrying are also digipeaters. They'll digi on the SAR7-7 portion whether the "WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1" portion has been used yet or not, up to seven times per packet just among the SAR teams and with dupe-checking just like the hilltop digi's. It should be a very snazzy setup and allow us to "carry the network with us" on our backs into the woods.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

480. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: OziExplorer and APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-11 22:54:09 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 469 Message: 480

You're right, and this is an issue that deserves some attention, IMO.

The general unreliability of geocoding data is really a significant issue all over the GIS world. They've been complaining for years, and the effort by the major sources seems to have been more to getting wider coverage than more reliable data, IMO. (Hey, business plans rule!) Of the few vendors of the underlying data, Navteq included, none has got a lock on accuracy. (The complaints about Google have come in large part, IMO, cuz now so many more people are using maps online because of the GMaps convenience, and it's always fun to point out errors.)

I spent some time on this issue at our local firehouse recently, re their high-$ CAD system and how they handle map errors. Turns out they rely on paper ADC maps, augmented by boots-on-the-ground. That is, they regularly drive the streets to pick up information re map corrections, new developments, etc., and get that data on paper to the county's 'map coordinator' for eventual distribution to the other dispatch units. So, basically, they've got a manual map correction process in place, and the map data sources may or may not ever get around to incorporating the information they've been given. (I expect that most of the shops represented here do something like that.)

So, cranking that information into Tickets, I'm doing the following. Users will have the ability to collect correction data, apply that to the Tickets map information database, and those corrections will be visible to users. The map itself can't be changed, but the correction information will be highlighted and called up automatically when a driving route passes nearby. I think that can beat what the county's system does in that respect, at least.

Arnie Shore

kc2mmi_whitelisted email wrote:
>
> Arnie & all-
> Beware of relying on any geocoding done by Google maps--or anyone else
> using
> NavTeq for their sourcing. I've seen the Navteq maps on Google (and
> car nav
> systems) often off by 1/4 to 1/2 mile, possibly because they have been
> cheaping
> out and using the TIGER census maps in the US. The TIGER maps are
> specifically
> not suitable for navigation purposes. Whatever NavTeq is doing--they
> don't seem
> to care about correcting their errors, even after years. google is

> aware of
> this, but apparently also unphased.
>
> ---
>

481. Re: [SAR_APRS] Trackers broadcasting on Ham vs MURS for SAR

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-12 05:12:56 UTC
From: DESloan@aol.com
Topic: 473 Message: 481

In a message dated 10/10/2007 12:14:39 P.M. Mountain Daylight Time,
riverridge@... writes:
We have a discussion going in our group and we would like to get input
from SAR groups further along the technology trail than we are.

Jim,
I don't have any information for you. But, if you receive private emails
on this question, please send a synopsis to the responses to the list. I for
one would be very interested.

Thanks,
Dave

********** See what's new at http://www.aol.com

482. APRS Trackers Carried By Non-Hams

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-25 18:25:32 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 482 Message: 482

Hopefully this will dispell the myths concerning this issue:

<http://info.aprs.net/index.php?title=ControlOperator>

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

483. Free/Open Source CAD Software

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-10-30 20:24:00 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 297 Message: 483

Folks, a new version of Tickets, our free/Open Source CAD software is now available. Its features include APRS interface, tracking, mapping, driving directions, etc., etc. ... . It's in beta, and in the hands of about two-dozen folks right now.

Kick the tires at http://kolamiannapolis.org/tickets/ - There's a guest login available there.

If interested, contact me via the email link there, and I'll get information back to you re a download.

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD

484. New Xastir Release

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-06 18:54:39 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 311 Message: 484

```
Project: XASTIR (xastir)
Package: xastir-stable
Date : 2007-11-06 09:20

Project "XASTIR" ('xastir') has released the new version of package
'xastir-stable'.
You can download it from SourceForge.net by following this link:
<https://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=45562&release_id=552245>
or browse Release Notes and ChangeLog by visiting this link:
<https://sourceforge.net/project/shownotes.php?release_id=552245>

Xastir Homepage: <http://www.xastir.org>

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!
```

485. Inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-10 05:42:21 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 485 Message: 485

Pardon the blatant commercial plug, but I thought this would be of sufficient interest to folks here to warrant a posting.

I've started importing the PX-777 VHF HT by Puxing. A similar version is currently marketed to first responders for about $230 under a different brand name. This version differs only in some minor features - it lacks voice annunciation of the channel selection, for one. I'm selling them for $90.

They're Part 90 approved, so unlike your average modified ham HT they're actually legal for use on SAR frequencies as well as the amateur 2-meter band. Power output is 5 watts, and weight with the standard 1200 mAh Li-ion battery is 8 ounces. The size is almost identical to the VX-150.

As for tracker connections and accessories, the speaker mic jack is the Kenwood variety. English-language documentation is mediocre, but there are references on the web and I'm putting together a cheat sheet.

I haven't been able to get any information on an IP rating, if any, and I had a hard time getting the question across to the factory rep, but the conclusion seemed to be that rain = ok, immersion = bad.

It should make a good personal radio for team members, and I'll be happy to offer a group discount to any team that wants to buy several. The product listing is here:

https://www.argentdata.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=74

73,

Scott
N1VG

486. inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-10 17:05:23 UTC
From: Matt Lee
Topic: 486 Message: 486

Hi Scott:
Here in Canada we are not allowed to purchase any radio gear that is not approved by the FCC or the DOC (Industry Canada). I am sure that this rule applies to you also in the United States. This radio is not available thru commercial radio companies because it does not have any FCC approval. They will not approve this radio due to the fact that this radio cannot be kept from being user programmed.
If you are not afraid of the $2,000.00 fine and getting your radio confiscated, it is a good radio. My friend bought one off an e-bay store for around $44.00 each. The receiver is very prone to intermod making it not as good in cities close to paging transmitters ect...
It is definitely economical though.
Thanks for your commercial post.
Matt.

487. Re: [SAR_APRS] inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-10 18:06:27 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 486 Message: 487

This radio IS approved. The FCC ID is UBYQZPUXING02. I didn't take the manufacturer's word for it, either - you can check the Part 90 grant yourself here:

https://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/oetcf/tcb/reports/Tcb731GrantForm.cfm?mode=COPY&RequestTimeout=500&application_id=614419&fcc_id=UBYQZPUXING02

Also, if you check the product code, you'll see that it is also marketed in the US under the Infinity brand name as the P-1000.

You don't normally see it in the US under the Puxing name because they have an exclusive distribution deal with Infinity / Kirmuss & Associates, who sell it for over $200. That just means I have to buy it through a wholesaler overseas.

Yeah, you can get them cheaper from Hong Kong, if you don't mind waiting a while for delivery and want to take your chances with returns. I may be able to drop my price after I get a large enough order to justify using ocean freight, but I'm not going to try to compete dollar for dollar with a fly-by-night eBay merchant.

If I didn't care about FCC approval, I could have chosen from a dozen other good, cheaper candidates. I'm still dealing with two other vendors that are in the process of getting approval for their new radios - one's a nice compact 4-watt commercial HT, and the other is a higher-end amateur model. If and when those get their approval, I'll look at importing some of those.

I've been very careful about verifying the legality of these radios. I've done everything by the book, including paying required import duties - which is another reason the eBay prices are cheaper. I resent the implication that what I'm doing is illegal or that I would expose my customers to legal liability by misrepresenting a product.

Scott
N1VG

Matt Lee wrote:
> Hi Scott:
> Here in Canada we are not allowed to purchase any radio gear that is not
> approved by the FCC or the DOC (Industry Canada). I am sure that this rule
> applies to you also in the United States. This radio is not available thru
> commercial radio companies because it does not have any FCC approval. They
> will not approve this radio due to the fact that this radio cannot be kept
> from being user programmed.
> If you are not afraid of the $2,000.00 fine and getting your radio
> confiscated, it is a good radio. My friend bought one off an e-bay store for

> around $44.00 each. The receiver is very prone to intermod making it not as
> good in cities close to paging transmitters ect...
> It is definitely economical though.
> Thanks for your commercial post.
> Matt.
>
>

488. Re: [SAR_APRS] inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-10 18:12:30 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 486 Message: 488

Scott,

I checked E-Bay this morning and found that although the dealers there carry the radio for a lower stated price, the shipping price brings it up into the 90.00 range anyway. I would rather deal with a radio and a dealer I already know is in America. (i.e., you!) I guess a word of caution is that you should not use the scrambler for amatuer comm's, but other than that, it looks like a nice piece of gear. Do you have the programming software?

Allen
KG6HXO
VHS Products

********** See what's new at http://www.aol.com

489. Re: [SAR_APRS] inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-10 18:29:42 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 486 Message: 489

That's a good point about the scrambler. I wrote up a bullet point about that, but then tested it and couldn't get the scrambler to work anyway, so I took it out. I was told only the plus model has the scrambler and ANI, but the box says this one does and the menu options are there.

So yeah, IF the scrambler actually works, don't turn it on if you're on ham frequencies! Or if there are any other legal prohibitions to its use, of course.

I have a couple of programming cables and CDs, haven't listed them on the website yet. I may just make up the cables myself, if the Kenwood cables I have on hand have the proper connections.

Scott
N1VG

CaptALord@... wrote:
> Scott,
>
> I checked E-Bay this morning and found that although the dealers there
> carry the radio for a lower stated price, the shipping price brings it
> up into the 90.00 range anyway. I would rather deal with a radio and a
> dealer I already know is in America. (i.e., you!) I guess a word of
> caution is that you should not use the scrambler for amatuer comm's, but
> other than that, it looks like a nice piece of gear. Do you have the
> programming software?
>
> Allen
> KG6HXO
> VHS Products
>
>
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> ---
> See what's new at AOL.com <http://www.aol.com?NCID=AOLCMP00300000001170>
> and Make AOL Your Homepage
> <http://www.aol.com/mksplash.adp?NCID=AOLCMP00300000001169>.
>

490. Re: inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-10 18:40:37 UTC
From: Mark Herrick
Topic: 486 Message: 490

Can you program the radio direct from keypad making it field programmable? Or, only through connection to a PC/laptop?

491. Re: [SAR_APRS] inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-10 18:46:04 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 486 Message: 491

Scott,

I will order a few for evaluation from you. I need to sell off the six Icom F-30GS units I have sitting around gathering dust first to justify new radios! (I don't think I am going to be doing any more CAP SAR work in the near future, and don't need NTIA approved radios)

Allen
KG6HXO

********** See what's new at http://www.aol.com

492. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-10 19:51:14 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 486 Message: 492

It can normally be programmed through the keypad, but it can be locked down in the programming software to restrict the functions available to the user.

Scott

Mark Herrick wrote:
> Can you program the radio direct from keypad making it field
> programmable? Or, only through connection to a PC/laptop?
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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493. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-10 22:00:34 UTC
From: Peter Devanney
Topic: 486 Message: 493

Would these radios happen to have a 2 or 5 tone decoder (option) by any chance?

Peter
VA3YOW
----- Original Message -----
From: Scott Miller
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, November 10, 2007 2:51 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: inexpensive VHF HT

It can normally be programmed through the keypad, but it can be locked
down in the programming software to restrict the functions available to
the user.

Scott

Mark Herrick wrote:
> Can you program the radio direct from keypad making it field
> programmable? Or, only through connection to a PC/laptop?
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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494. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-10 23:33:44 UTC
From: Mark Herrick
Topic: 486 Message: 494

Hi Scott,
So you sell them for 90.00? Does that including tax and shipping? Does that include the PC cable and software too?
If not how much extra for those?
Mark

From: Scott Miller [mailto:scott@...]
Sent: Saturday, November 10, 2007 11:51 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: inexpensive VHF HT

It can normally be programmed through the keypad, but it can be locked down in the programming software to restrict the functions available to the user.

Scott

Mark Herrick wrote:
> Can you program the radio direct from keypad making it field
> programmable? Or, only through connection to a PC/laptop?
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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495. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-11 06:52:35 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 486 Message: 495

Not as far as I can tell. You can see the manuals here:

http://puxing.n1.hu/

Scott
N1VG

Peter Devanney wrote:
> Would these radios happen to have a 2 or 5 tone decoder (option) by any
> chance?
>
>
> Peter
> VA3YOW
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> *From:* Scott Miller <mailto:scott@...>
> *To:* SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
> *Sent:* Saturday, November 10, 2007 2:51 PM
> *Subject:* Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: inexpensive VHF HT
>
> It can normally be programmed through the keypad, but it can be locked
> down in the programming software to restrict the functions available to
> the user.
>
> Scott
>
> Mark Herrick wrote:
> > Can you program the radio direct from keypad making it field
> > programmable? Or, only through connection to a PC/laptop?
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496. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: inexpensive VHF HT

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-11 06:56:44 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 486 Message: 496

No, it doesn't - California residents will need to pay sales tax. I
only got a couple of programming cables in this batch, since I think
they're fairly standard parts and I intend to look for another source.
I still need to take pictures and look up what I paid for them before I
post something on the website. Same for the 1600 mAh batteries.

Scott

Mark Herrick wrote:
> Hi Scott,
>
> So you sell them for 90.00? Does that including tax and shipping? Does
> that include the PC cable and software too?
>
> If not how much extra for those?
>
> Mark
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> ---
>
> *From:* Scott Miller [mailto:scott@...]
> *Sent:* Saturday, November 10, 2007 11:51 AM
> *To:* SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: inexpensive VHF HT
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> down in the programming software to restrict the functions available to
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>> programmable? Or, only through connection to a PC/laptop?
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>> Yahoo! Groups Links
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497. New Programmable Micro-Trak Transmitter coming in December!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-11-24 23:51:06 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 497 Message: 497

VHS and Byonics are pleased to announce the new MT-8000 FA transmitter, the most innovative and powerful APRS tracking transmitter available! The MT-8K FA is frequency agile, and integrates a new version of the Tiny-Track controller with a programmable 2 Meter transmitter. Power output is variable up to 8 Watts and the PC board measures 1 X 4.5 inches. The unit weighs less than 1.5 ounces, and is provided as a fully assembled, populated and tested PC board. The form factor is much like previous versions of the Micro-Trak, and the board has an integrated SMA output jack. Like the older versions of the Micro-Trak, the MT-8000 FA has a TT3 PIC as its' brain.(the MT-8000 FA is not backwards compatible with any other Tiny Track controller) A seperate frequency may be entered into the unit in each TT3 configuration screen, allowing individually programmed parameters (call sign, transmission intervals, etc.) selectable via external switch. Finally, a tracker filling everyones needs! It will work in America, Europe, Asia, Australia, Scandinavia, etc., merely by entering the desired frequency in the configuration screen. A special version of TT3 Config will be available for free download. No hex programming, machine codes,etc. Very simple and intuitive that any TinyTrack user will be totally comfortable with. The DB-9 connector (supplied, but not installed) is pin-for-pin compatible with a regular TT3+ connector, and a regulated +5 volt supply capable of supplying 200 mA, is on the board. This can power most GPS stand-alone receivers, such as the Byonics GPS 1 or GPS 2. Price has not been set as of yet, but it will be less than $200.00. Ideal for SAR, Balloons,Satellites, etc. I will be placing a photo and draft manual in the appropriate sections of the this page ASAP. Wx Trax and Fox versions are in development. Is 8 Watts too much? You can turn it down and save power! Its better to have the power and not need it, then to need it and not have it!

Allen R. Lord
VHS
KG6HXO

498. [AD] 4 watt 70cm APRS transmitter from BigRedBee

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-12-11 19:48:02 UTC
From: k7rkt
Topic: 498 Message: 498

Here's a update on the BigRedBee family of transmitters that you may find interesting.

A 1 and 4 watt version of the BeeLine GPS Telemtry Transmitter is now available. This device packs a 12 channel GPS (tested to > 60K' MSL), 1200 baud AX.25 data modem, frequency agile 70cm FM transmitter, and a 4 watt amplifier on a single board measuring 3 3/4" x 1 1/4" and weighing less than 2 ounces. The 1200 baud modem transmits standard APRS data packets containing latitude, longitude, altitude as well as course and speed.

Preliminary pricing of the amplified version will be about $40 more than the non-amplified version.

I'll be adding more information to my site soon, but a picture can be found here.
http://bigredbee.com/tmp/amp2.jpg

Details of the non-amplified version can be found on www.bigredbee.com

I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Regards,

-- Greg K7RKT

499. Micro-Trak 8000 FA

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-12-17 18:44:21 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 499 Message: 499

For those of you who have purchased a new Micro-Trak 8000 FA, please don't set your transmission interval too high.You may not ever be able to reprogram the TT3 PIC if you do! We have a client that set his unit for 1 second transmission periods for testing, and we don't have a way to interrupt the firmware to overwrite it. A new version of the Config software will be available shortly that will solve this potential glitch. Just a reminder, unless you are transmitting into a dummy load, set your transmission intervals to a polite and reasonable rate so as not to monopolize the airwaves with "blind" transmissions.

73

Allen
VHS

500. New poll for SAR_APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-12-20 05:51:25 UTC
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 500 Message: 500

Enter your vote today! A new poll has been created for the
SAR_APRS group:

Solano County ACS would like to host a meeting or conference related to the use of APRS in SAR. This meeting would be held during the first half of 2008. The current proposed location would be in the Fairfield California area. We would like to include vendor exhibts and live demonstrations. We would like to gauge the level of interest to help us with the scope an planning of the meeting or conference. Help us plan by responding to the poll questions. We will post the results and keep everyone up to date.

o Yes I am interested and would attend in Fairfield or a near by location.
o No I am not interested.
o I am interested, but could not attend in California.
o I am interested and am in a nearby County/Location.
o I am a vendor interested in attending.
o It's a good idea, provide an Internet feed!

To vote, please visit the following web page:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAR_APRS/surveys?id=1970135

Note: Please do not reply to this message. Poll votes are
not collected via email. To vote, you must go to the Yahoo! Groups
web site listed above.

Thanks!

501. Small incident based GPS tracking System help needed T.I.A. Brett

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-12-23 07:56:12 UTC
From: banjupb
Topic: 501 Message: 501

Hi Group.
Just a bit of background. I have been in various parts of the comms game from Boiler maker/welder Rigger to Project Manager for over seas and in country (Australia). I am also a 18 + year Volunteer Bush Fireman, soon to be Fire Control Officer, Nationally accredited "Incident Controler",Holder of a "National Medal" (Australia). After all that I am very interested in knowing the location of my fire units. I have looked at the Garmin Astro, looks good but not allowed on the MURS freqs on OZ. So i am looking for a system that will be ok here in OZ.

The system that I would like to create is upto 10 roaming fire units and a portable sector command base, to cover about a 5 to 10 km range. The RF side of things is no problems. Basicly I would like to create a "astro" that will work here in Western Australia.

I have a range of portables mostly Tait Orca conventional portables that I can use as roam-about stations (Small Fire units), so that will not be a problem with your opentrackers (still to purchase)and most units have Garmin GPS already fitted.

I need to know what hardware and software I need to use at the base. Obviously a base radio and antenna system and psu but what do I need to plot the roaming fire units onto the notebook. I would like to plot them real time and in differant colours like the "Garmin Astro" and keep the tracks for later use. I have oziexplorer gps s/w and maps for most of Western Australia.

Thank you in advance for your advice and expertise in this matter.We are entering our very high fire danger period down here in OZ at the moment and this is the best time to prove the system and maybe extend this to the whole state and possibly thru-out Australia as a Sector Commanders Tool independant of satelite, GSM, Trunking Systems. Cheers Brett

502. Re: [SAR_APRS] Small incident based GPS tracking System help needed T.I.A. Brett

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2007-12-23 18:16:54 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 501 Message: 502

Brett, pending getting some good info fm others on this list, on the off-chance you hadn't already looked there, I just hit Freshmeat (http://freshmeat.net/) with a search for GPS; got a good response list. Depending on what software chops you have available, something there might come close.

Arnie Shore
AKA Tickets' developer

banjupb wrote:
>
> Hi Group....
>
> The system that I would like to create is upto 10 roaming fire units
> and a portable sector command base, to cover about a 5 to 10 km
> range. The RF side of things is no problems. Basicly I would like to
> create a "astro" that will work here in Western Australia. ...
>

503. Re: [SAR_APRS] Small incident based GPS tracking System help needed T.I.A. Brett

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-02 07:56:10 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 501 Message: 503

On Sun, 23 Dec 2007, banjupb wrote:

> I am very interested in knowing the
> location of my fire units. I have looked at the Garmin Astro, looks
> good but not allowed on the MURS freqs on OZ. So i am looking for a
> system that will be ok here in OZ.

Garmin RINO GMRS is another possible option.

Ham-Radio APRS is another.

Check out Xastir, an open-source APRS tracking/mapping application.
It runs on most operating systems and is free for the download. It
can hook into to ham-radio APRS or into Garmin RINO systems.

Join the Xastir list and ask questions there (don't worry, we're
friendly to newcomers) if you want more specifics.

<http://www.xastir.org>

Mailing list link is on the left.

> I have a range of portables mostly Tait Orca conventional portables
> that I can use as roam-about stations (Small Fire units), so that
> will not be a problem with your opentrackers (still to purchase)and
> most units have Garmin GPS already fitted.

You might need to revisit your commercial frequency licenses to make
sure the particular emmissions mode is allowed there. At least we
need to do that here in the U.S. Your regulations may have fewer
restrictions on emissions modes for the band you're using.

> I need to know what hardware and software I need to use at the base.
> Obviously a base radio and antenna system and psu but what do I need
> to plot the roaming fire units onto the notebook. I would like to
> plot them real time and in differant colours like the "Garmin Astro"
> and keep the tracks for later use. I have oziexplorer gps s/w and
> maps for most of Western Australia.

If using Garmin RINO's, you'd use another RINO at base. With this
system and Xastir tied in though, you'd only see positions from the
rovers if they transmit. It's not automatic every XX minutes or
anything like that.

With ham-radio APRS or commerical-radio tracking, you'd add a TNC,
which is a radio modem, and stands for Terminal Node Controller,

between a receiver or tranceiver and a PC. You then run APRS
software on the PC, of which there are a variety. See this link:

<http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/aprs_capabilities.html>

Currently broken, don't know why, and I'm the maintainer! Likely an
ISP server problem.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

504. Re: [SAR_APRS] Small incident based GPS tracking System help needed

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-03 17:47:35 UTC
From: Jeff Moore
Topic: 504 Message: 504

Curt,

I don't know if this is a software issue or not, but the Rinos have a polling capability built in allowing one unit to poll all the others on the same freq. Whether that works with the software is another issue.

Jeff Moore -- KE7ACY
Bend, Oregon

----- Original Message -----
From: Curt, WE7U
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, January 01, 2008 11:56 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Small incident based GPS tracking System help needed T.I.A. Brett

If using Garmin RINO's, you'd use another RINO at base. With this
system and Xastir tied in though, you'd only see positions from the
rovers if they transmit. It's not automatic every XX minutes or
anything like that.

.

505. Re: [SAR_APRS] Small incident based GPS tracking System help needed

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-03 17:53:42 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 504 Message: 505

On Thu, 3 Jan 2008, Jeff Moore wrote:

> I don't know if this is a software issue or not, but the Rinos
> have a polling capability built in allowing one unit to poll all
> the others on the same freq. Whether that works with the software
> is another issue.

Yep. An entirely different issue. Garmin had to get an STA
(Special Temporary Authorization) from the FCC in order to do
positioning on the FRS frequencies at all, then another later STA to
up the power to GMRS power levels for the positioning.

What they could _not_ get was an automatic polling authorization, so
as far as I know there's no way to initiate a poll from the software
or automatically via a radio. You have to physically push the
button, or just wait for the remote RINO's to transmit which will
also update their position on the others.

Xastir has a variable rate of "polling" the attached RINO, but that
is only the time period between snagging the entire waypoint list
from it, it doesn't have anything to do with the FRS/GMRS radio-side
polling.

It's important to keep the distinction.

Also: If anyone has early model FRS/GMRS Rino's, update the
firmware to get the GMRS power levels for the positioning. This
will greatly extend the range for that feature.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

506. Re: Small incident based GPS tracking System help needed

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-03 18:38:33 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 504 Message: 506

Looking back at the original post, it appears that the requestor has already made the decison to use his Orca's as the RF uplink. I think this is wise. The GMRS solution has a number of problems, 1) it's proprietary, 2) Very limited range, 3) monitorable and "jammable" by anyone with a RHINO, 4) expensive. 5) no auto-beaconing. His comparison was to a system like that of the Garmin Astro (Dog tracker)Just fire and forget. A TinyTrak or OpenTrac would be perfect, inexpensive, and use off-the-shelf technology. His real problem is in the selection of software, since it sounds like he would like something scalable to the level of Computer Assisted Dispatch.

Allen
VHS
KG6HXO
Y222

507. [SAR_APRS] Re: Small incident based GPS tracking System help needed

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-03 21:09:33 UTC
From: Cliff A. Weaver
Topic: 504 Message: 507

Here is how we are currently working this situation.

We (OVSAR) have recently started using Garmin 530Hcx GMRS units (9) the GPS systems are very accurate and we download the recent tracks to MAPTECH for our records to show areas covered during the search. The K-9 teams can also use the new TOPO 2008 maps and see the other field team?s icons on their Rino handhelds.

For the Search Manager back at base we use Tiny Tracker 3plus (6) and now have a couple of the TinyTracker8000 units and watch them in the truck on UI-View32 program using precision mapping 7 with a satellite map overlay for real time data on 144.390.

http://ovsar.org/OperationsTruck.htm
http://ovsar.org/APRSunits.htm

We are still learning on every training and mission, but so far this is the best equipment we have found for wilderness SAR.

Cliff Weaver SAR TECH 1
Ohio Valley Search and Rescue
Evansville, Indiana K9EVV

508. APRS "Legality"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-09 04:49:05 UTC
From: Rick Cabral
Topic: 508 Message: 508

Good day,

I belong to a volunteer Wilderness search and rescue organization in Central PA. I am also a licensed amateur radio operator: KR3C. I have proposed to our organization the possibility of utilizing APRS for search and rescue applications.

My question is this; Are you aware of any FCC ruling prohibiting such use? I also belong to a local ham radio club and have now had several "heated" discussions with one of the club officers, who is also an "official observer" and he is stating in no uncertain terms that he believes this to be an illegal and inappropriate utilization of amateur radio frequencies.

It would seem from all the postings that I am seeing that this would be illogical, but I figured since many of you are already "doing it", perhaps you could cite chapter and verse so that I could perhaps reason with this gentleman.

Thanks for your help!

509. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS "Legality"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-09 04:52:23 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 508 Message: 509

It'd probably help if you defined exactly what you're proposing. 144.39 trackers on unlicensed personnel? In vehicles?

Scott
N1VG

Rick Cabral wrote:
> Good day,
>
> I belong to a volunteer Wilderness search and rescue organization in
> Central PA. I am also a licensed amateur radio operator: KR3C. I have
> proposed to our organization the possibility of utilizing APRS for
> search and rescue applications.
>
> My question is this; Are you aware of any FCC ruling prohibiting such
> use? I also belong to a local ham radio club and have now had several
> "heated" discussions with one of the club officers, who is also an
> "official observer" and he is stating in no uncertain terms that he
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> be illogical, but I figured since many of you are already "doing it",
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> reason with this gentleman.
>
> Thanks for your help!
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510. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS "Legality"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-09 05:12:05 UTC
From: Richard Cabral
Topic: 508 Message: 510

All licensed operators on foot with portable units.
Command vehicle to have computer monitoring, with a
licensed operator as well.

This same individual is now "reluctant" to allow team
members that have indicated an interest in being
licensed in amateur radio to be allowed to take the
tests. He controls the local W5YI test group. While
this is not insurmountable, it is at least an hour
drive to the next closest testing site.

--- Scott Miller <scott@...> wrote:

> It'd probably help if you defined exactly what
> you're proposing. 144.39
> trackers on unlicensed personnel? In vehicles?
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>
> Rick Cabral wrote:
> > Good day,
> >
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> rescue organization in
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> operator: KR3C. I have
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> ruling prohibiting such
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> > "official observer" and he is stating in no
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> > Thanks for your help!
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511. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS "Legality"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-09 05:19:35 UTC
From: bill Croghan
Topic: 508 Message: 511

Report this "observer Nazi" to the ARRL and W5YI. They don't like such abuse. Since volunteer examiners are doing the work of the FCC, they also may not take to kindly to a volunteer examiner refusing to give exams based on his personal prejudice. That could reflect poorly on the VEC.
Bill VE (Both W5YI and ARRL)and Former OO.
WB0KSW

Richard Cabral wrote:
> All licensed operators on foot with portable units.
> Command vehicle to have computer monitoring, with a
> licensed operator as well.
>
> This same individual is now "reluctant" to allow team
> members that have indicated an interest in being
> licensed in amateur radio to be allowed to take the
> tests. He controls the local W5YI test group. While
> this is not insurmountable, it is at least an hour
> drive to the next closest testing site.
>
>
> --- Scott Miller <scott@...> wrote:
>
>
>> It'd probably help if you defined exactly what
>> you're proposing. 144.39
>> trackers on unlicensed personnel? In vehicles?
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>> Scott
>> N1VG
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>> Rick Cabral wrote:
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>>> Good day,
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>>> I belong to a volunteer Wilderness search and
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--
Bill Croghan WB0KSW CPBE
Chief Engineer, Lotus Broadcasting Las Vegas
KOMP/KXPT/KENO/KBAD
Las Vegas, NV
Billcroghan(at)earthlink.net

513. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS "Legality"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-09 05:47:50 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 508 Message: 513

Absolutely. That is NOT what this hobby needs - there are few enough
people wanting to get started as it is. Seems like the OO position
attracts some real interesting folks... lots of armchair lawyers that
like exercising what little power they're given.

Scott
N1VG

bill Croghan wrote:
> Report this "observer Nazi" to the ARRL and W5YI. They don't like such
> abuse. Since volunteer examiners are doing the work of the FCC, they
> also may not take to kindly to a volunteer examiner refusing to give
> exams based on his personal prejudice. That could reflect poorly on the
> VEC.
> Bill VE (Both W5YI and ARRL)and Former OO.
> WB0KSW
>
>
>
> Richard Cabral wrote:
>> All licensed operators on foot with portable units.
>> Command vehicle to have computer monitoring, with a
>> licensed operator as well.
>>
>> This same individual is now "reluctant" to allow team
>> members that have indicated an interest in being
>> licensed in amateur radio to be allowed to take the
>> tests. He controls the local W5YI test group. While
>> this is not insurmountable, it is at least an hour
>> drive to the next closest testing site.
>>
>>
>> --- Scott Miller <scott@...> wrote:
>>
>>
>>> It'd probably help if you defined exactly what
>>> you're proposing. 144.39
>>> trackers on unlicensed personnel? In vehicles?
>>>
>>> Scott
>>> N1VG
>>>
>>> Rick Cabral wrote:
>>>
>>>> Good day,

>>>>
>>>> I belong to a volunteer Wilderness search and
>>>>
>>> rescue organization in
>>>
>>>> Central PA. I am also a licensed amateur radio
>>>>
>>> operator: KR3C. I have
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>>>> proposed to our organization the possibility of
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>>> utilizing APRS for
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>>>> search and rescue applications.
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>>>> My question is this; Are you aware of any FCC
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>>> ruling prohibiting such
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>>>> use? I also belong to a local ham radio club and
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>>> have now had several
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>>>> "heated" discussions with one of the club
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>>> officers, who is also an
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>>>> "official observer" and he is stating in no
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>>> uncertain terms that he
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>>>> believes this to be an illegal and inappropriate
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>>>> It would seem from all the postings that I am
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>>>> perhaps you could cite chapter and verse so that I
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>>>> reason with this gentleman.

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>>>> Thanks for your help!
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>>>> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>> Yahoo! Groups Links
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514. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS "Legality"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-09 06:08:24 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 508 Message: 514

As long as we've got some discussion going here, does anyone have any interest in testing 440 MHz 5-watt integrated trackers in the not-too-distant future?

I've got two transceivers on hand at the moment. They measure about 4.8" by 2.4" by 0.8" and run on 12 volts. Frequency coverage is 400-470 MHz. An integrated Tracker2 board should be ready for testing in 2-3 weeks. No Part 90 certification yet. In fact, I'm going to have to do some more research before I even start marketing them for Part 97.

A VHF version may be in the offering before long - negotiations are in progress.

Since each unit will be capable of acting as a digipeater, it'll be interesting to see how they work with many of them deployed in the field. I think with a little more intelligence in the digi algorithm, it should be possible to get fairly dense mesh coverage without overloading the channel.

Like a regular Tracker2, if you've got Garmin or Magellan GPS receivers you get all of the received stations as waypoints, and you can have the command post send out object waypoints (for PLS, LKP, rendezvous points, etc) that include text descriptions. Used properly, it ought to cut down on a lot of calling out coordinates on the air.

I'm going to look into Pelican-type cases that would fit the transceiver (it has a BNC and DB9 on it) plus a Li-poly battery pack, or optionally an AA pack. An 8xAA pack should be roughly the same size as the module and would give 12 volts with lithium or alkaline cells. Might run OK at 9.6 volts, but I haven't tried it yet.

Scott
N1VG

Jim Godward wrote:
> Richard,
>
> I think his concern is the "commercial" use of ham radio. If you are a
> volunteer organization in support of your local LE, There should be no
> concern.
>
> I would contact W5YI directly and express your concern there and see what
> happens. It sounds to me like you have a little power play going on in your
> area. As I understand it, I am a W5YI VE, we cannot refuse to give someone
> a test based on our opinion of their use. On the other hand if we observe
> them breaking the law, we, all Hams, should report it to the FCC.
>

> Also since he is an OO, I would contact the ARRL for clarification of the
> issue too. They just might pull his OO!! I know I would contact our
> Section Manager at least.
>
> Jim
> James Godward
> On the Road From
> Belgrade, MT
> ~
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "Richard Cabral" <rcabral16823@...>
> To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
> Sent: Tuesday, January 08, 2008 10:12 PM
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS "Legality"
>
>
>> All licensed operators on foot with portable units.
>> Command vehicle to have computer monitoring, with a
>> licensed operator as well.
>>
>> This same individual is now "reluctant" to allow team
>> members that have indicated an interest in being
>> licensed in amateur radio to be allowed to take the
>> tests. He controls the local W5YI test group. While
>> this is not insurmountable, it is at least an hour
>> drive to the next closest testing site.
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>>
>> --- Scott Miller <scott@...> wrote:
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>>> It'd probably help if you defined exactly what
>>> you're proposing. 144.39
>>> trackers on unlicensed personnel? In vehicles?
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>>> Rick Cabral wrote:
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>>> > I belong to a volunteer Wilderness search and
>>> rescue organization in
>>> > Central PA. I am also a licensed amateur radio
>>> operator: KR3C. I have
>>> > proposed to our organization the possibility of
>>> utilizing APRS for
>>> > search and rescue applications.
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>>> > My question is this; Are you aware of any FCC
>>> ruling prohibiting such

>>> > use? I also belong to a local ham radio club and
>>> have now had several
>>> > "heated" discussions with one of the club
>>> officers, who is also an
>>> > "official observer" and he is stating in no
>>> uncertain terms that he
>>> > believes this to be an illegal and inappropriate
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>>> > amateur radio frequencies.
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>>> > It would seem from all the postings that I am
>>> seeing that this would
>>> > be illogical, but I figured since many of you are
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>>> > perhaps you could cite chapter and verse so that I
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515. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS "Legality"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-09 16:34:23 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 508 Message: 515

On Wed, 9 Jan 2008, Rick Cabral wrote:

> I have
> proposed to our organization the possibility of utilizing APRS for
> search and rescue applications.
>
> My question is this; Are you aware of any FCC ruling prohibiting such
> use? I also belong to a local ham radio club and have now had several
> "heated" discussions with one of the club officers, who is also an
> "official observer" and he is stating in no uncertain terms that he
> believes this to be an illegal and inappropriate utilization of
> amateur radio frequencies.

This page may help:

<http://info.aprs.net/index.php?title=ControlOperator>

It talks about carrying APRS trackers even by non-hams, and how the
Control Operator function is still able to be carried out/legal per
FCC rules. This is often a sticking point among hams discussing
APRS for various events. The page also includes a quote by an
"Official Observer".

What specific points are being brought up by this club officer?

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

516. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS "Legality"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-09 16:35:25 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 508 Message: 516

On Tue, 8 Jan 2008, Scott Miller wrote:

> It'd probably help if you defined exactly what you're proposing. 144.39
> trackers on unlicensed personnel? In vehicles?

Which are both perfectly legal BTW: As long as you have a
ham-licensed control operator overseeing the whole shebang.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

517. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS "Legality"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-09 16:38:39 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 508 Message: 517

On Tue, 8 Jan 2008, Richard Cabral wrote:

> All licensed operators on foot with portable units.
> Command vehicle to have computer monitoring, with a
> licensed operator as well.
>
> This same individual is now "reluctant" to allow team
> members that have indicated an interest in being
> licensed in amateur radio to be allowed to take the
> tests. He controls the local W5YI test group. While
> this is not insurmountable, it is at least an hour
> drive to the next closest testing site.

My most accurate response to this so far: Tell your "buddy" to take
a flying leap!

It sounds like you're using due diligence and trying to follow the
rules properly. What else is he expecting? ;-)

Quit messing with this person entirely if possible. As in don't ask
him another thing and bypass him. If he's a roadblock to getting
licenses for people then do everything in your power to clear that
roadblock ASAP.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

518. Re: APRS "Legality"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-09 16:56:36 UTC
From: kc2mmi_whitelisted email
Topic: 508 Message: 518

Rick, as others have said contact the ARRL and the W5 group first to report his actions. He has no business deciding who can and can't sit for an exam and if he said "You can't take the test" that would probably be outright illegal if not simply improper. The FCC has made arrangements so that ALL of the public can take the tests this way, and that's binding. Some diplomacy (or a ride out of town on a split rail) might be in order, your choice.

I believe I understand what concerns the man, there is a section of Part 97 (the rules governing the Amateur Radio Service) that states something along the lines it shall not be used when another regular service or activity is available. Part97 is poorly written and often ambiguous. One could interpret it--and perhaps literally should read it--as saying that for activities like Red Cross disaster deployments, since the ARC has their own radio allocations, using ham radio to support their response would be illegal. Likewise, since your group is conducting "regular" operations and could use a licensed "business" radio service--your use of ham radio could be construed as illegal.

Nevertheless, the FCC's interpretation, and practice, is that using ham radio in support of disaster and emergency activities is the best possible use of it, and they have NEVER tried to hold this use as illegal or improper. If you have any doubt, contact the FCC directly and ask "Is this use of the amatuer radio service appropriate and legal for our group?" and let THEM give you the definitive answer. Not what some concerned or cranky ham thinks they might say about it.

The FCC has long been under federal pressure to allocate its resources to whatever makes money, i.e. selling off bandwidth to cellular services. They don't make money off ham radio, so they allocate near-zero resources to things like hiring writers to clean up Part 97. We're lucky if they manage to address changes in the rules to keep up with the changing times, at all.

Free pop3 email with a spam filter.
http://www.bluebottle.com/tag/5

519. Re: APRS "Legality"

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-09 20:19:48 UTC
From: watchtinker
Topic: 519 Message: 519

I've been through a similar situation with APRS and an "observer Nazi". I reported this to my SM who simply defended th OO. The OO had gone to a sheriff's deputy who was starting to put together an APRS system. Told him it was illegal and he would report to the FCC if the system was activated. The OO was so abusive that the deputy told me he wanted to "rip him a new one." Last month the SM promoted the OO to be the OO Coordinator in charge of all OO's in the section. Seems to me that the ARRL only wants to protect their own and isn't interested in solving problems.

Never miss a thing. Make Yahoo your homepage.

520. Happy 18 months from your lurking moderators

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-11 17:35:55 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 520 Message: 520

SAR_APRS has been active for about 10 months now and we seem to be keeping a lively pace of information transfer and membership growth.

Kevin and I thought we would send this to everyone on the SAR_APRS group to say Thank You for both sharing your expertise regarding APRS, its' application to SAR and making our job as moderators easy. We seem to have an excellent group who understands civil exchange of ideas.

Welcome to the new members of the group and we hope you find the information available here useful.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions related to improving the group.

Keep up the good work.

Kevin Ives, N6QGV and Mike Heil, K6MAH your lurking moderators.

521. Would an FAQ related to the "leaglity" using APRS for SAR be helpful?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-11 17:41:27 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 521 Message: 521

List:

Kevin and I were talking and it seems that the question of legality for using APRS in SAR and the related amateur control operator issue seems to come up periodically. A search of the archives would certainly provide information around this subject. We were thinking however that an FAQ in the files section might be a good resource for reference and for new members that have not seen the discussion.

We are going to try and put together an FAQ based on some of the discussions we have had here. Please let us know if you believe that it would be useful. Also if you have any suggestions for material that might be included, please let us know.

Kevin & Mike

522. Re: [SAR_APRS] Would an FAQ related to the "leaglity" using APRS for SAR be helpful?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-12 02:53:07 UTC
From: Jeff Moore
Topic: 521 Message: 522

Personally, I think that's a great idea -- go for it!!

Jeff Moore
KE7ACY
Bend, Oregon

----- Original Message -----
From: Mike Heil
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, January 11, 2008 9:41 AM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Would an FAQ related to the "leaglity" using APRS for SAR be helpful?

List:

Kevin and I were talking and it seems that the question of legality for using APRS in SAR and the related amateur control operator issue seems to come up periodically. A search of the archives would certainly provide information around this subject. We were thinking however that an FAQ in the files section might be a good resource for reference and for new members that have not seen the discussion.

We are going to try and put together an FAQ based on some of the discussions we have had here. Please let us know if you believe that it would be useful. Also if you have any suggestions for material that might be included, please let us know.

Kevin & Mike

.

523. Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 13:16:21 UTC
From: la8gma
Topic: 523 Message: 523

Hi everyone!

In my group (a Scout's SAR group in Norway) we have been experimenting with trackers for a few years now. Though we have not yet found a tracker suitable for our needs, we see that this is coming shortly and now we want to plan ahead.

The first generation of trackers only sent their position. The current one is able to receive waypoints as well, and output these to a compatible GPS. In the future we want to utilize this to send positions from HQ directly to the teams' GPS units, instead of transmitting positions via voice. This is faster, easier and more secure IMO, provided the conditions are good enough for APRS of course.

We can of course do this manually either from a handheld or UI-View by entering coordinates, but it would be a whole lot smoother to add a waypoint in OziExplorer (which I prefer during a search because of its map capabilities) and simply right-click and "Send to TNC" or something. My question is; does anyone have any experience with this? Is there software available? How easy is it to write an add-on to OziExplorer or UI-View that can do this? Or any other software?

I'd love to hear your thoughts on this!

Best regards,
Dag Erik Syvertsen, LA8GMA
Communications Manager, RBG (Scouts SAR) Nedre Buskerud, Norway

524. RE: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 13:45:29 UTC
From: Daniel Nye
Topic: 523 Message: 524

Greetings,

I not 100% sure, but I think this software will do what you want. It's free (donation requested), however you need MS MapPoint installed for the program to run.

http://www.aresd24.org/pinpoint.shtml

I'm in the process of learning the program and trying it for my local SAR team.

Good Luck!

Dan w0nye DCSAR

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of la8gma
Sent: Monday, January 14, 2008 6:16 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Hi everyone!

In my group (a Scout's SAR group in Norway) we have been experimenting with trackers for a few years now. Though we have not yet found a tracker suitable for our needs, we see that this is coming shortly and now we want to plan ahead.

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I'd love to hear your thoughts on this!

Best regards,
Dag Erik Syvertsen, LA8GMA
Communications Manager, RBG (Scouts SAR) Nedre Buskerud, Norway

525. RE: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 14:40:15 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 523 Message: 525

I may be missing something, but all of APRS should work this way. Not only eery station, but also every object should go to an attached GPS map. Thus, all you have to do to send something to a GPS map is hit "SEND" on any object on your APRS map.

In the original APRS, you simply click on the object, and hit "Uplink" That sends it to eveyone's maps. Should be similarly simple in All APRS clients. Bob, WB4APR

> Subject: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker
>
> Hi everyone!
>
> In my group (a Scout's SAR group in Norway) we have been
> experimenting with trackers for a few years now. Though we have not
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> The first generation of trackers only sent their position. The

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> secure IMO, provided the conditions are good enough for APRS of
> course.
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> by entering coordinates, but it would be a whole lot smoother to add
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> its map capabilities) and simply right-click and "Send to TNC" or
> something. My question is; does anyone have any experience with this?
> Is there software available? How easy is it to write an add-on to

> OziExplorer or UI-View that can do this? Or any other
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> I'd love to hear your thoughts on this!
>
> Best regards,
> Dag Erik Syvertsen, LA8GMA
> Communications Manager, RBG (Scouts SAR) Nedre Buskerud,
Norway
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>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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526. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 15:50:02 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 523 Message: 526

I've done this in Xastir, but it should work in any APRS client that supports objects and items. Just create the object, set the icon and comment text, and it'll transmit a packet. It'll keep sending packets at regular intervals that depend on your settings.

Scott
N1VG

la8gma wrote:
> Hi everyone!
>
> In my group (a Scout's SAR group in Norway) we have been
> experimenting with trackers for a few years now. Though we have not
> yet found a tracker suitable for our needs, we see that this is
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> Is there software available? How easy is it to write an add-on to
> OziExplorer or UI-View that can do this? Or any other software?
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> I'd love to hear your thoughts on this!
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> Best regards,
> Dag Erik Syvertsen, LA8GMA
> Communications Manager, RBG (Scouts SAR) Nedre Buskerud, Norway
>
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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527. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 15:50:47 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 523 Message: 527

Ah, I didn't see that it was for OxiExplorer. I was thinking OziAPRS.

Scott
N1VG

Daniel Nye wrote:
> Greetings,
>
>
>
> I not 100% sure, but I think this software will do what you want. It?s
> free (donation requested), however you need MS MapPoint installed for
> the program to run.
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> Good Luck!
>
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> Dan w0nye DCSAR
>
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> ---
>
> *From:* SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] *On
> Behalf Of *la8gma
> *Sent:* Monday, January 14, 2008 6:16 AM
> *To:* SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> *Subject:* [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker
>
>
>
> Hi everyone!
>

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> experimenting with trackers for a few years now. Though we have not
> yet found a tracker suitable for our needs, we see that this is
> coming shortly and now we want to plan ahead.
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> I'd love to hear your thoughts on this!
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> Best regards,
> Dag Erik Syvertsen, LA8GMA
> Communications Manager, RBG (Scouts SAR) Nedre Buskerud, Norway
>
>

528. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 16:22:51 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 523 Message: 528

We're using (with details for those unfamiliar with any of the programs):

1. OziExplorer to display topo maps and waypoints.
www.oziexplorer.com

2. UiView to manage the TNC/radio connection, display wide-area maps, and
manage objects.
www.ui-view.org

3. OziAPRS to move waypoints from UI-View to OziExplorer.
www.radio-active.net.au/web/gpsaprs/oziaprs.html

This runs on a Win98 laptop, using an older version of OziAPRS.
Versions that aren't as old require the Micro$oft .NET environment.
Now that the Win98 box is being replaced by an XP laptop, I need to
visit Darryl and see what he's been up to.

The few trackers that we have are mostly Kenwood D7, and they work
fine. There is nothing like the support provided by base to teams
on off-trail assignments, when they need help with routing through
rough areas.

We're still dreaming of the all-in-a-box relatively-low-cost
gps/tnc/radio/battery with good flexible antenna-on-a-stick, including
a bluetooth connection to mapping PDA's carried by one or more nearby
team mates.

Now that everyone is rolling around on the floor laughing heartily,
73 de Mykle N7JZT
Southern Arizona Rescue Association
Tucson, AZ

P.S. Yes, I've been watching products become available that are getting
alot closer to this "ideal" tracker!

la8gma wrote:
>
>
> Hi everyone!
>
> In my group (a Scout's SAR group in Norway) we have been
> experimenting with trackers for a few years now. Though we have not
> yet found a tracker suitable for our needs, we see that this is
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> transmitting positions via voice. This is faster, easier and more
> secure IMO, provided the conditions are good enough for APRS of
> course.
>
> We can of course do this manually either from a handheld or UI-View
> by entering coordinates, but it would be a whole lot smoother to add
> a waypoint in OziExplorer (which I prefer during a search because of
> its map capabilities) and simply right-click and "Send to TNC" or
> something. My question is; does anyone have any experience with this?
> Is there software available? How easy is it to write an add-on to
> OziExplorer or UI-View that can do this? Or any other software?
>
> I'd love to hear your thoughts on this!
>
> Best regards,
> Dag Erik Syvertsen, LA8GMA
> Communications Manager, RBG (Scouts SAR) Nedre Buskerud, Norway

529. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 16:16:55 UTC
From: Keith VE7GDH
Topic: 523 Message: 529

Dag LA8GMA wrote...

> The first generation of trackers only sent their position. The
> current one is able to receive waypoints as well, and output these to
> a compatible GPS. In the future we want to utilize this to send
> positions from HQ directly to the teams' GPS units, instead of
> transmitting positions via voice. This is faster, easier and more
> secure IMO, provided the conditions are good enough for APRS of
> course.

The OpenTracker+ and the Tracker 2 can output received position reports as waypints to a compatible GPS receiver. www.n1vg.net and follow the link to the "store" site. The soon to be released TinyTrak 4 can also do that. www.byonics.com For mobile units in vehicles, consider the HamHUD. www.hamhud.net.

> We can of course do this manually either from a handheld or UI-View
> by entering coordinates...

Teams in the field can of curse just beacon their own position, but you could just create an object in UI-View and beacon it.

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

530. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 16:50:30 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 523 Message: 530

> The few trackers that we have are mostly Kenwood D7, and they work
> fine. There is nothing like the support provided by base to teams
> on off-trail assignments, when they need help with routing through
> rough areas.

I hope you've got something better than the stock D7 batteries. Mine dies after a few hours of APRS use.

> We're still dreaming of the all-in-a-box relatively-low-cost
> gps/tnc/radio/battery with good flexible antenna-on-a-stick, including
> a bluetooth connection to mapping PDA's carried by one or more nearby
> team mates.

That's been my dream for a long time, too. I'm getting there, slowly. Bluetooth will probably have to wait. The problem I had with mapping PDAs is software support - what software are you using? I talked to the Terrain Navigator people and they weren't terribly interested in modifying their PDA software to be able to take unsolicited waypoints.

Aside from that, I've got the electronics mostly taken care of - now it's regulatory issues (approval for the transceivers), business stuff (getting the manufacturer to make the VHF version of the transceiver and making sure it'll meet certification requirements), and mechanical design for the whole package. I probably need to get a bunch of samples of smaller Pelican cases and similar products and see what'd work. More likely I'll wind up farming some of that out to someone who's better at mechanical design than I am. The antenna I'll leave up to the end user for now, I expect. That's going to depend a lot on your existing gear and how you want it mounted.

Scott
N1VG

531. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 16:57:04 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 523 Message: 531

The really cool part about the Tracker2 for SAR use is that you can put comment text in the objects and it'll show up on the GPS screen, assuming the receiver supports comments. I think the eTrex series don't. It really helps to be able to see exactly what that waypoint you got IS.

I need to put together a few SAR-related symbols, too - for starters, maybe a footprint to indicate tracks. Command post, rendezvous point, and helicopter landing zone would be good, though there's already a helicopter symbol. Not all of the Garmin models allow symbol uploads, but there's still a pretty decent selection built in to most of them.

Scott
N1VG

Keith VE7GDH wrote:
> Dag LA8GMA wrote...
>
>> The first generation of trackers only sent their position. The
>> current one is able to receive waypoints as well, and output these to
>> a compatible GPS. In the future we want to utilize this to send
>> positions from HQ directly to the teams' GPS units, instead of
>> transmitting positions via voice. This is faster, easier and more
>> secure IMO, provided the conditions are good enough for APRS of
>> course.
>
> The OpenTracker+ and the Tracker 2 can output received position reports
> as waypints to a compatible GPS receiver. www.n1vg.net and follow the
> link to the "store" site. The soon to be released TinyTrak 4 can also do
> that. www.byonics.com For mobile units in vehicles, consider the HamHUD.
> www.hamhud.net.
>
>> We can of course do this manually either from a handheld or UI-View
>> by entering coordinates...
>
> Teams in the field can of curse just beacon their own position, but you
> could just create an object in UI-View and beacon it.
>
> 73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
> --
> "I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"
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> Yahoo! Groups Links

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532. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 19:27:00 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 523 Message: 532

Scott Miller wrote:
>
> > The few trackers that we have are mostly Kenwood D7, and they work
> > fine. There is nothing like the support provided by base to teams
> > on off-trail assignments, when they need help with routing through
> > rough areas.
>
> I hope you've got something better than the stock D7 batteries. Mine
> dies after a few hours of APRS use.

Use the Kenwood AA-cell pack, using non-rechargeable batteries. I suspect that rechargeable AA's would work (is the high-power capability reduced?). I have modified these packs to include an external plug connected to a radio-controlled device battery (like a Radio Shack RC battery). Use EITHER AA's in the case OR the external battery, but not both. This also is a step towards having a single battery powering the entire tracker.

We have set up all of the local digipeaters, high and low, to support an uncommon alias. While we are typically using SANDR,WIDE2-1 , you could probably generalize this a bit by using the TEMPn-n alias. The whole reason for using an uncommon alias is so home stations that don't need to provide WIDE1-1 services can be set to support only the uncommon alias, whether SANDR, something like it, or TEMPn-n. These home stations are most useful when covering areas in the shadows of the main digis. Also, our rescue vehicles have trackers that always digipeat only the uncommon alias. We can position a digi-truck to cover regular digipeater shadows, like the bottoms of canyons where teams are searching. So we are able to make use the regular network and add in-fill digi coverage, all without any reconfigurations. Some groups need to work on a different frequency and have to provide all of the network, so common aliases will work fine.

So, we run QRP at 0.5w at a 1min rate, also assuming that the stock antenna has been replaced by one of the good flexible whips, like the Comet AS-30 or Diamond SRH77CA.

Scott is working on a tracker that will digipeat packets from other trackers, making a tracker network. We're certainly paying attention to this approach!

> > We're still dreaming of the all-in-a-box relatively-low-cost
> > gps/tnc/radio/battery with good flexible antenna-on-a-stick, including
> > a bluetooth connection to mapping PDA's carried by one or more nearby
> > team mates.
>
> That's been my dream for a long time, too. I'm getting there, slowly.

> Bluetooth will probably have to wait. The problem I had with mapping
> PDAs is software support - what software are you using? I talked to the
> Terrain Navigator people and they weren't terribly interested in
> modifying their PDA software to be able to take unsolicited waypoints.

While I don't have a PDA just waiting for a tracker to connect with, by cable or RF, I have been under the impression that the OziExplorer OziCE version would be the way to go. We'll certainly have to play with data stream format issues, but if we have something that looks like it will work, we "should" be able to come up with a solution from the tracker software and/or the mapping program.

> Aside from that, I've got the electronics mostly taken care of - now
> it's regulatory issues (approval for the transceivers), business stuff
> (getting the manufacturer to make the VHF version of the transceiver and
> making sure it'll meet certification requirements), and mechanical
> design for the whole package. I probably need to get a bunch of samples
> of smaller Pelican cases and similar products and see what'd work. More
> likely I'll wind up farming some of that out to someone who's better at
> mechanical design than I am. The antenna I'll leave up to the end user
> for now, I expect. That's going to depend a lot on your existing gear
> and how you want it mounted.

A flexible antenna is likely to be required while working your way through brush. The hand-held radio antennas are not effective. A high-gain hand-held antenna can probably be used on a separate mount on a fiberglass tube (arrow shaft?) or pvc pipe, and may perform better with a wire extending down into the shaft from the connector. The tube/shaft/pipe that sticks down into your pack needs to be just long enough to stick a bit out of your pack, but not long enough to get stuck on brush or other obstacles.

A separately mounted antenna gets away from the goal to have all cables and connectors inside one package (backpacks are not a completely stable environment!!). You still have to be careful that the cable is not bent or the connectors stressed.

73 de Mykle

533. RE: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 19:38:27 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 523 Message: 533

> Just create the object, set the icon and
> comment text, and it'll transmit a packet.
> It'll keep sending packets at regular
> intervals that depend on your settings.

That's the number one problem in many implementations of objects. They send them at a fixed rate. This is usually not often enough when a new object appears for reliable distribution to everyone; and is too often and adds QRM to the channel for something that has not moved or is hours old.

That's why APRS was fundamentallly designed for new data to be rapidly refreshed, decaying down to much longer refresh rates the older it gets. Those programs that do not do this fundamental approach make it difficult to manage lots of objects during a situation..

I know this wasn't the thread here, but it gave me another stump to jump on.

Thanks
Bob, Wb4APR

534. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 20:00:18 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 523 Message: 534

Xastir seems to handle decay just fine - maybe not exactly like APRSdos,
but it works fine for me.

Scott
N1VG

Robert Bruninga wrote:
>> Just create the object, set the icon and
>> comment text, and it'll transmit a packet.
>> It'll keep sending packets at regular
>> intervals that depend on your settings.
>
> That's the number one problem in many implementations of
> objects. They send them at a fixed rate. This is usually not
> often enough when a new object appears for reliable distribution
> to everyone; and is too often and adds QRM to the channel for
> something that has not moved or is hours old.
>
> That's why APRS was fundamentallly designed for new data to be
> rapidly refreshed, decaying down to much longer refresh rates
> the older it gets. Those programs that do not do this
> fundamental approach make it difficult to manage lots of objects
> during a situation..
>
> I know this wasn't the thread here, but it gave me another stump
> to jump on.
>
> Thanks
> Bob, Wb4APR
>
>
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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535. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 20:09:43 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 523 Message: 535

On Mon, 14 Jan 2008, Scott Miller wrote:

> Xastir seems to handle decay just fine - maybe not exactly like APRSdos,
> but it works fine for me.

For objects/items, but not for the position packet of the Xastir
station itself. For the posit from the station it uses either a
fixed period or smart beaconing.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

536. RE: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 20:21:32 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 523 Message: 536

>> Xastir seems to handle decay just fine...
>
> For objects/items, but not for the position packet
> of the Xastir station itself. For the posit from
> the station it uses either a fixed period or smart
> beaconing.

SO if it is set to 30 minutes (for a fixed station) and you change your position text field to say "Operator going off line till 1300" then it might be 30 minutes to an hour before that packet is received by everyone else?

Fixed 30 minute beaconing for NEW information violates the fundamental principles of APRS as a real time system. Here is how everything was supposed to work in APRS:

POSITION, or POSITION TEXT, or STATUS text are very important fields that convey your instantaneous operations. They were not considered to be fixed bolierplate info, but dynamic info that changes whenever your situation or status changes. This could be quite frequently during a "situation.".

That is why when any of these are changed, even by editing just one word, that this was NEW information that was supposed to refresh everyone in the network right then, not up to 30 minutes later. Or not an HOUR later if the first update suffered a collision. In APRSdos, that changed line was transmitted immediately, then 8 seconds later, then 16, then 32 and on down. This makes the rapid delivery about as fast as regular packet in those initial retries. Yet unburdens the network with older data.

So I hope this can get fixed. In my example above, it violates the principle of least astonishment if someone makes a change to their position, status or position text, and it is not seen for up to an hour by everyone else. No wonder some people are not seeing APRS as a real-time situational awareness system.

Bob, WB4APR

537. RE: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 20:21:42 UTC
From: Larish, Michael
Topic: 523 Message: 537

I would be interested in a document by several of you very knowledgeable people about a step-by-step solution for APRS for the purpose of SAR whether it be Ham-based or commercial frequency based with use of Maptech's topomapping application.

In other words, a list of hardware and software components necessary, cables, interfaces, etc. how to put them together and how to get a pilot program off the ground...

Unfortunately, time to play on this type of project in a more random way isn't available right now and yet we recognize the very beneficial nature of what this system might be able to do for us...

Mike

Mike Larish
Butte County Sheriff's Office
Captain, Search & Rescue
mlarish@...

538. RE: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 20:28:42 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 523 Message: 538

On Mon, 14 Jan 2008, Larish, Michael wrote:

> I would be interested in a document by several of you very
> knowledgeable people about a step-by-step solution for APRS for
> the purpose of SAR whether it be Ham-based or commercial frequency
> based with use of Maptech's topomapping application.
>
> In other words, a list of hardware and software components
> necessary, cables, interfaces, etc. how to put them together and
> how to get a pilot program off the ground...

If someone comes up with one please add a link to the SAR APRS Wiki
page. Or let me know the details and I'll add the link or create a
new page there for you. I agree that any step-by-step howto guides
would be very useful.

I'm not a Windows guy, else I'd volunteer to write it.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

539. RE: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 20:29:41 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 523 Message: 539

> We have set up all of the local digipeaters, to
> support an uncommon alias (SANDR). While we
> are typically using SANDR,WIDE2-1

This is excellent use of the flexibility built into the APRS protocol. This is a good idea for the reasons you mention. Just remember though, that this will have the original "RELAY" problem in that for every SANDR digi that hears the first packet, there will be unneeded dupes propogating through your network.

Not a problem if you have the bandwidth, but if yoru net is busy, then for routine operations (not special SAR operations), I would remember that using that path will load down your network possibly.

Just a thought.

Bob, WB4APR

540. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 20:58:12 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 523 Message: 540

Robert Bruninga wrote:
>
>
> > We have set up all of the local digipeaters, to
> > support an uncommon alias (SANDR). While we
> > are typically using SANDR,WIDE2-1
>
> This is excellent use of the flexibility built into the APRS
> protocol. This is a good idea for the reasons you mention.
> Just remember though, that this will have the original "RELAY"
> problem in that for every SANDR digi that hears the first
> packet, there will be unneeded dupes propogating through your
> network.
>
> Not a problem if you have the bandwidth, but if yoru net is
> busy, then for routine operations (not special SAR operations),
> I would remember that using that path will load down your
> network possibly.
>
> Just a thought.

Good thought. We REQUIRE that the uncommon alias be originated
ONLY FROM PORTABLE (QRP) TRACKERS. Any station can digipeat it,
but we don't need the extra digi support for non-QRP stations
that would think about including SANDR in it's path.

Any QRP station in our area (SAR or not) is welcome to add SANDR
to their path, and any of the SANDR-only digis will give them
some help into the rest of the network.

So the bandwidth requirements should be minimal. It's also a
good thought because it incorporates opinions that you have
expressed when I've had the excuse to mention SANDR from time
to time (VBG!).

73 de Mykle

541. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 21:05:16 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 523 Message: 541

What's your terrain like? Around here QRP trackers and home-based digis would be useless for anything except the occasional urban search. The back country where most of the searches take place is full of deep canyons. I think quickly deployable digipeaters are going to be an important part of any system used here.

Scott
N1VG

Mykle Raymond wrote:
> Robert Bruninga wrote:
>>
>>
>> > We have set up all of the local digipeaters, to
>> > support an uncommon alias (SANDR). While we
>> > are typically using SANDR,WIDE2-1
>>
>> This is excellent use of the flexibility built into the APRS
>> protocol. This is a good idea for the reasons you mention.
>> Just remember though, that this will have the original "RELAY"
>> problem in that for every SANDR digi that hears the first
>> packet, there will be unneeded dupes propogating through your
>> network.
>>
>> Not a problem if you have the bandwidth, but if yoru net is
>> busy, then for routine operations (not special SAR operations),
>> I would remember that using that path will load down your
>> network possibly.
>>
>> Just a thought.
>
> Good thought. We REQUIRE that the uncommon alias be originated
> ONLY FROM PORTABLE (QRP) TRACKERS. Any station can digipeat it,
> but we don't need the extra digi support for non-QRP stations
> that would think about including SANDR in it's path.
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> Any QRP station in our area (SAR or not) is welcome to add SANDR
> to their path, and any of the SANDR-only digis will give them
> some help into the rest of the network.
>
> So the bandwidth requirements should be minimal. It's also a
> good thought because it incorporates opinions that you have
> expressed when I've had the excuse to mention SANDR from time
> to time (VBG!).
>

> 73 de Mykle
>
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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542. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 21:39:58 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 523 Message: 542

2500 - 9000' with deep canyons. Many can be covered from top or bottom
by well-placed vehicle-based digis. A wide-area digi is at the top of
the mountain, but covers only a few canyons. It does help that a major
metro area is adjacent on two sides, so more opportunities for home-based
infill digis. A third of our calls are elsewhere, mountainous or not.

You don't need to track teams for all missions. Many teams on trails
can get by with occasional position reports. Deep woods teams need more
support.

Quickly deployable digis will be a good option to have. Digi-trackers
are likely to be another good option. It would be nice to have UAV
trackers orbiting at altitude above the terrain.

During one of the forest fires on our mountain, I had the opportunity
to fly in a twin engine, 24 passenger military aircraft in which a
Predator UAV sensor package was installed. Fly over the fried village
and look down in visible light and see nothing thru the smoke. Switch
to IR and all was clear. Also, we could be orbiting well away from
the village, but the display showed the coordinates of the point on
the ground being imaged. I was absolutely and completely spoiled.
None of the crew was familiar with the mountain, so I was recruited.
It also helped that I had ridden with one of the Sheriff's deputies
as he was giving a tour to the county supervisor, so I had seen all
parts of the village, fried or not.

I certainly recognize that many areas have more complex topography with
even deeper woods. So, experiences from other areas can only provide a
guide when guesstimating your requirements. That's what keeps this
interesting, doesn't it?!!

73 de Mykle

Scott Miller wrote:
>
> What's your terrain like? Around here QRP trackers and home-based digis
> would be useless for anything except the occasional urban search. The
> back country where most of the searches take place is full of deep
> canyons. I think quickly deployable digipeaters are going to be an
> important part of any system used here.
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>
> Mykle Raymond wrote:
> > Robert Bruninga wrote:

> >>
> >>
> >> > We have set up all of the local digipeaters, to
> >> > support an uncommon alias (SANDR). While we
> >> > are typically using SANDR,WIDE2-1
> >>
> >> This is excellent use of the flexibility built into the APRS
> >> protocol. This is a good idea for the reasons you mention.
> >> Just remember though, that this will have the original "RELAY"
> >> problem in that for every SANDR digi that hears the first
> >> packet, there will be unneeded dupes propogating through your
> >> network.
> >>
> >> Not a problem if you have the bandwidth, but if yoru net is
> >> busy, then for routine operations (not special SAR operations),
> >> I would remember that using that path will load down your
> >> network possibly.
> >>
> >> Just a thought.
> >
> > Good thought. We REQUIRE that the uncommon alias be originated
> > ONLY FROM PORTABLE (QRP) TRACKERS. Any station can digipeat it,
> > but we don't need the extra digi support for non-QRP stations
> > that would think about including SANDR in it's path.
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> > Any QRP station in our area (SAR or not) is welcome to add SANDR
> > to their path, and any of the SANDR-only digis will give them
> > some help into the rest of the network.
> >
> > So the bandwidth requirements should be minimal. It's also a
> > good thought because it incorporates opinions that you have
> > expressed when I've had the excuse to mention SANDR from time
> > to time (VBG!).
> >
> > 73 de Mykle

543. RE: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 21:50:06 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 523 Message: 543

On Mon, 14 Jan 2008, Robert Bruninga wrote:

> > For objects/items, but not for the position packet
> > of the Xastir station itself. For the posit from
> > the station it uses either a fixed period or smart
> > beaconing.
>
> SO if it is set to 30 minutes (for a fixed station) and you
> change your position text field to say "Operator going off line
> till 1300" then it might be 30 minutes to an hour before that
> packet is received by everyone else?

Yes. Unless the operator was smart enough to crank down the timing slider for posits for a while and then crank it back up.

The object code was mostly rewritten in the last few years, at which time the decay algorithm was implemented. Nobody's gone back and touched the station posit code to implement the algorithm yet. It's on the TODO list.

> So I hope this can get fixed. In my example above, it violates
> the principle of least astonishment if someone makes a change to
> their position, status or position text, and it is not seen for
> up to an hour by everyone else. No wonder some people are not
> seeing APRS as a real-time situational awareness system.

What violates _my_ principle of least astonishment is that _you're_ still astonished when other APRS clients don't operate exactly like APRSdos. We all have different priorities, and are doing the best we can with the resources at hand. ;-)

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

544. Re: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 22:20:31 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 523 Message: 544

> 2500 - 9000' with deep canyons. Many can be covered from top or bottom
> by well-placed vehicle-based digis. A wide-area digi is at the top of

Yeah, assuming you can get there. I think ammo can digis might be
useful for this.

> are likely to be another good option. It would be nice to have UAV
> trackers orbiting at altitude above the terrain.

This is the second day I've seen someone practicing touch-and-gos in a
little autogyro at the airport near my office. That thing looks like a
lot of fun - I see him cruising around at about 30 knots. Looks more
substantial than an ultralight, and a lot simpler than a helicopter.
Might not be an ideal all-weather craft though!

> During one of the forest fires on our mountain, I had the opportunity
> to fly in a twin engine, 24 passenger military aircraft in which a
> Predator UAV sensor package was installed. Fly over the fried village

What's always bugged me is the difficulty in getting this sort of
support when it's needed. The local air force base has FLIR-equipped
UH-1N's flying all the time, but apparently getting them to help out
requires coordination through the state. I remember one search where
we'd been out hacking through brush for a few hours and they finally got
the OK - the helicopter was there in minutes, and had the victim spotted
almost immediately. Getting a bit off-topic, though...

Scott
N1VG

545. RE: [SAR_APRS] Sending waypoint from map to tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-14 22:27:02 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 523 Message: 545

>> SO if it is set to 30 minutes (for a fixed
>> station) and you change your position text
>> field to say "Operator going off line
>> till 1300" then it might be 30 minutes to
>> an hour before that packet is received by
>> everyone else?
>
> Yes. Unless the operator was smart enough to
> crank down the timing slider for posits for a
> while and then [remember to] crank it back up.

Ooooh... Thanks for cosidering a fix for this to the TODO list.
This is a significant (though subtle) problem.

Its just that kind of subtle reason why we abandoned Uiview that one time we tried to use it for a real time event... It wasn't until that first practice was over that we learned that all the dilligent use of the STATUS packet and the station's POSITION TEXT for keeping every one informed of the immediate real time information at each station, was not going out but once every 30 minutes. During this event, with things changing all the time, fixed timing makes no sense. A higher rate would solve it, but create even more propblems with too much QRM when it wasn't changing...

APRS was a complete system. Not just icons on a map...

Thanks.
Bob, Wb4APR

>> So I hope this can get fixed. In my example above, it
violates
>> the principle of least astonishment if someone makes a change
to
>> their position, status or position text, and it is not seen
for
>> up to an hour by everyone else. No wonder some people are
not
>> seeing APRS as a real-time situational awareness system.

546. Re: Would an FAQ related to the "leaglity" using APRS for SAR be helpful?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-15 15:38:12 UTC
From: Tom Russo
Topic: 521 Message: 546

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Mike Heil" <maheil@...> wrote:
>
>
>
> List:
>
> Kevin and I were talking and it seems that the question of legality for
> using APRS in SAR and the related amateur control operator issue seems
> to come up periodically. A search of the archives would certainly
> provide information around this subject. We were thinking however that
> an FAQ in the files section might be a good resource for reference and
> for new members that have not seen the discussion.
>

Curt has attempted to start such a FAQ on the APRS wiki,
<http://info.aprs.net/>.

He posted the link the other day, it's at
<http://info.aprs.net/index.php?title=ControlOperator>. If you create
a FAQ here, at a minimum it should point there. And since the wiki
allows community editing, it could be modified with more FAQs as needed.

547. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Would an FAQ related to the "leaglity" using APRS for SAR be helpful?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-15 17:13:35 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 521 Message: 547

On Tue, 15 Jan 2008, Tom Russo wrote:

> --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Mike Heil" <maheil@...> wrote:
> >
> > Kevin and I were talking and it seems that the question of legality for
> > using APRS in SAR and the related amateur control operator issue seems
> > to come up periodically.

> Curt has attempted to start such a FAQ on the APRS wiki,

> He posted the link the other day, it's at
> <http://info.aprs.net/index.php?title=ControlOperator>. If you create
> a FAQ here, at a minimum it should point there. And since the wiki
> allows community editing, it could be modified with more FAQs as needed.

In fact the data has been reviewed by a legal-type for that
"ControlOperator" page and was changed quite a bit because of that
input. We're probably not quite done with it yet, but it's useful
as-is.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

548. Request for Step-by-Step Guide

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-15 17:21:37 UTC
From: Larish, Michael
Topic: 521 Message: 548

And just to make sure all the people on the list hear, I would love it if one or more people would be willing to create a step-by-step guide with recommendations, hardware, software, cables/interface, etc. for creating a portable/carryable APRS (or non-ham equivalent) for Search & Rescue for use with Maptech's topo and mapping software.

As I mentioned, unfortunately, time and $$ being at a premium, it's difficult for us to buy a bunch of different options and start playing or experimenting, although I know that is the core of what amateur radio is about.

Operationally, we'd love to be able to implement APRS for teams in the field and it would be a huge benefit to the public and people they're out looking for.

Mike

549. RE: [SAR_APRS] Request for Step-by-Step Guide

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-15 20:13:13 UTC
From: Jim Carr
Topic: 521 Message: 549

I've been there! I belong to a volunteer organization (as most of us are) and have been faced by the same problem. Since the entire platform (including the trailer) came out of my pocket (ouch), it had quite a budget to be wrestled with.

I recently wrote an article that will soon be published in QST, but since you are in immediate need of the information, you may download the article at ftp://fireline.org/sar/usar.doc.

Best of luck in your program. Let me know if we can be of further help. If you visit the Byonics site, you will see that he has some smaller units made just for this purpose. When I regain some more "excess" financing, I plan on upgrading the one's we have now.

Jim Carr, KC4MHH
james@...
http://www.fireline.org <http://www.fireline.org/>

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Larish, Michael
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2008 12:22 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Request for Step-by-Step Guide

And just to make sure all the people on the list hear, I would love it if one or more people would be willing to create a step-by-step guide with recommendations, hardware, software, cables/interface, etc. for creating a portable/carryable APRS (or non-ham equivalent) for Search & Rescue for use with Maptech's topo and mapping software.

As I mentioned, unfortunately, time and $$ being at a premium, it's difficult for us to buy a bunch of different options and start playing or experimenting, although I know that is the core of what amateur radio is about.

Operationally, we'd love to be able to implement APRS for teams in the field and it would be a huge benefit to the public and people they're out looking for.

Mike

550. Re: [SAR_APRS] Request for Step-by-Step Guide

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-16 22:09:53 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 521 Message: 550

Jim,

Great article! We will look for it in QST. (I especially liked the part about the the Micro-Trak transmitters, but I am notoriously biased in this regard!)

Allen
VHS

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http://body.aol.com/fitness/winter-exercise?NCID=aolcmp00300000002489

551. Re: [SAR_APRS] Request for Step-by-Step Guide

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-17 00:09:46 UTC
From: DaveN roadfacts.com
Topic: 521 Message: 551

I also liked the mention of Dmapper. But I'm also biased. Thanks Jim!

Dave W7PDQ
www.dmapper.com

----- Original Message -----
From: CaptALord@...
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 2:09 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Request for Step-by-Step Guide

Jim,

Great article! We will look for it in QST. (I especially liked the part about the the Micro-Trak transmitters, but I am notoriously biased in this regard!)

Allen
VHS

Start the year off right. Easy ways to stay in shape in the new year.

552. SAR and Mapping Technologies

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-17 23:16:56 UTC
From: Talbot Brooks
Topic: 552 Message: 552

Hi!

I wanted to share few things with this group and hopefully get some feedback and participation. I was among the geospatial professionals assisting the MS Emergency Management Agency during Hurricane Katrina. I've also been involved in the fire service for 20 years and was military for about 9 years. During the Katrina event, I learned some things about the application of geospatial technologies to emergency/disaster/SAR response and wanted to share them here for comment and to use them as a basis for extending an invitation.

1. A common means for communicating location among ground, air, and maritime SAR responders is needed to establish a common, spatially-based operational framework. More on this in this month's (January) Firehouse Magazine, page A40 and through http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-o/g-opr/nsarc/nsarc.htm for those who aren't familiar with IAMSAR and the National SAR Committee.

2. In addition to common means for communicating location, we need to develop a common symbology set. This isn't something I've been able to hunt down and would like some help with. A first step would be to create a listing of things that typically appear on a SAR map and then to create symbols to accompany them. If done in a cooperative way using expertise such as that found through this listserv, we may be able to get it dropped into the NRP, IAMSAR, and other associated documents. Again, the goal here is to get everyone on the same (map) page.

3. I think there are a lot of geospatial professionals out there who want to support SAR and related activities and a lot of SAR folks out there who would welcome spatial technologies support. Unfortunately, there hasn't been a venue to close this disconnect until now. I would like to extend an invitation to folks to attend the first-ever conferencing trying to close this gap - the Emergency Responder-Geospatial Professional Symposium sponsored by GITA this March in Seattle. More info at http://www.gita.org/ers - folks like Rick Button (USCG and Nat'l SAR Committee), Don Cooper (former TF Leader OH TF #1 and current Dep. Chief Fire Marshall for OH), Richard Butgereit (FL SERT), and myself will be presenting and looking to open dialogue in this arena.

4. More information about lessons learned during Katrina, the US National Grid, and related items at http://mississippi.deltastate.edu

Thanks,
Talbot Brooks, Director

Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies
Delta State University
tbrooks@... <mailto:tbrooks%40deltastate.edu>

Talbot J. Brooks, Director

Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies

Delta State University

Box 3325

Cleveland, MS 38732-3325

US National Grid 15S YT 09843639
<http://nmviewogc.cr.usgs.gov/Run.htm?BBOX=-90.73877,33.74398,-90.73047,
33.7495&CLASSIDSON=39|4|6|64|20&LAYERSON=18067|12460|11914|10362|9880|10
361|10360&LAYERSOFF=12458|11777|16962|16964>

(662) 846-4520 (w)

(662) 402-3772 (c)

tbrooks@...

Delta State GIS Programs <http://gis.deltastate.edu/>

US National Grid Information <http://mississippi.deltastate.edu/>

553. Re: Request for Step-by-Step Guide

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-17 23:41:17 UTC
From: easystreets1
Topic: 521 Message: 553

Out of curiousity, have you tried the Garmin Rino 530? You can put a topo map set on it and it has a built-in radio that allows you to do all the normal GPS stuff (waypoints etc...) but also lets you poll the location of and send your location to other team members. In messing around with it some, we figured out that the radio uses FR bands that can be patched into VHF/UHF/800 MHz using an ACU 1000 or similar device. Prices out at about $500...

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Larish, Michael" <mlarish@...> wrote:
>
> And just to make sure all the people on the list hear, I would love it if one or more people would be willing to create a step-by-step guide with recommendations, hardware, software, cables/interface, etc. for creating a portable/carryable APRS (or non-ham equivalent) for Search & Rescue for use with Maptech's topo and mapping software.
>
> As I mentioned, unfortunately, time and $$ being at a premium, it's difficult for us to buy a bunch of different options and start playing or experimenting, although I know that is the core of what amateur radio is about.
>
> Operationally, we'd love to be able to implement APRS for teams in the field and it would be a huge benefit to the public and people they're out looking for.
>
> Mike
>

554. Re: [SAR_APRS] SAR and Mapping Technologies

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-18 03:09:13 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 552 Message: 554

Talbot, hello; you may recall an exchange between us on this general topic some months ago.

I'm not sure I'm exactly the right guy on this, but pls do include me on any information exchange on this general topic. Some preliminary comments:

1. Yep, a useful initiative, certainly.
2. There's a rapidly growing field of practitioners - myself included - that "do GIS without GIS". That is, we use tools like Google's, MS's VE, and Yahoo's API's to provide location-based information services -- without conventional GIS.
3. Given the rapid growth in availability of this field (I gotta note GaTech's GVTC - see http://gtresearchnews.gatech.edu/newsrelease/gtvc-mapping.htm - as well as my own stuff as examples) both camps really ought to be sharing the commonality you propose as we support our end-user communities.
4. An important note: Both tech communities need to do what we can to avoid the religious wars we've all seen among some of the Windows/Linux enthusiasts. Often with more heat than light, those battles turn off reasonable people.
5. While there's some endpoint overlap in the technology issues, there's also clear differences emerging in some of what the non-GIS providers attempt to do. Not from altruism, but as a result of perceived commercial value. That is, there are huge online databases available that key to location information, which are of potentially high value to emergency managers. Examples of questions attempted by such services:
a. Where's the generator repair shop nearest X? What's their phone number?
b. What's a driving route from Y to there?
c. Hwy Z is impassible: what's another road?
d. Phone number-to-location lookup?
e. Name-to-location lookup?

I'll certainly agree that the services currently available aren't fully mature yet and need augmentation before any use in life-threatening situations. But they're improving - without any encouragement from us. The trajectory is right. From what I've seen, conventional GIS doesn't try to address these information base issues, but they're freely (mostly) available in the public domain - without a major data acquisition process. I think we need much wider awareness of the existence of these information bases; what's in them and how they may be accessed. I was surprised recently to see how little was known among some of the tech-heads here.

To repeat my entry line: Consider me as highly interested in
participating in this initiative, in some way. Let's get both tech
communities rolling on it.

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD
--

Talbot Brooks wrote:
>
> Hi!
>
> I wanted to share few things with this group and hopefully get some
> feedback and participation. I was among the geospatial professionals
> assisting the MS Emergency Management Agency during Hurricane
> Katrina. I've also been involved in the fire service for 20 years
> and was military for about 9 years. During the Katrina event, I
> learned some things about the application of geospatial technologies
> to emergency/disaster/SAR response and wanted to share them here for
> comment and to use them as a basis for extending an invitation.
>
> 1. A common means for communicating location among ground, air, and
> maritime SAR responders is needed to establish a common, spatially-
> based operational framework. More on this in this month's (January)
> Firehouse Magazine, page A40 and through http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-o/g-
> <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/g-o/g->
> opr/nsarc/nsarc.htm for those who aren't familiar with IAMSAR and the
> National SAR Committee.
>
> 2. In addition to common means for communicating location, we need
> to develop a common symbology set. This isn't something I've been
> able to hunt down and would like some help with. A first step would
> be to create a listing of things that typically appear on a SAR map
> and then to create symbols to accompany them. If done in a
> cooperative way using expertise such as that found through this
> listserv, we may be able to get it dropped into the NRP, IAMSAR, and
> other associated documents. Again, the goal here is to get everyone
> on the same (map) page.
>
> 3. I think there are a lot of geospatial professionals out there who
> want to support SAR and related activities and a lot of SAR folks out
> there who would welcome spatial technologies support. Unfortunately,
> there hasn't been a venue to close this disconnect until now. I
> would like to extend an invitation to folks to attend the first-ever
> conferencing trying to close this gap - the Emergency Responder-
> Geospatial Professional Symposium sponsored by GITA this March in
> Seattle. More info at http://www.gita.org/ers
> <http://www.gita.org/ers> - folks like Rick
> Button (USCG and Nat'l SAR Committee), Don Cooper (former TF Leader
> OH TF #1 and current Dep. Chief Fire Marshall for OH), Richard
> Butgereit (FL SERT), and myself will be presenting and looking to
> open dialogue in this arena.

>
> 4. More information about lessons learned during Katrina, the US
> National Grid, and related items at http://mississippi.deltastate.edu
> <http://mississippi.deltastate.edu>
>
> Thanks,
> Talbot Brooks, Director
> Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies
> Delta State University
> tbrooks@... <mailto:tbrooks%40deltastate.edu>
>
>
>
>
>
> Talbot J. Brooks, Director
>
> Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies
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> Delta State University
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> Box 3325
>
> Cleveland, MS 38732-3325
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>
> US National Grid 15S YT 09843639
> <http://nmviewogc.cr.usgs.gov/Run.htm?BBOX=-90.73877,33.74398,-90.73047,33.7495&CLASSIDS
ON=39%7C4%7C6%7C64%7C20&LAYERSON=18067%7C12460%7C11914%7C10362%7C9880%7C10361%7C10360&LAYE
RSOFF=12458%7C11777%7C16962%7C16964>
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> (662) 846-4520 (w)
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> (662) 402-3772 (c)
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> tbrooks@...
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> Delta State GIS Programs <http://gis.deltastate.edu/>
>
> US National Grid Information <http://mississippi.deltastate.edu/>
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>

>

555. Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-21 22:53:42 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 555 Message: 555

I have had a number of people ask me about producing an integrated, high power Micro-Trak, primarily for Search and Rescue users in the back country. I have done a little testing with a design measuring 2.5 X 5 inches, that will produce 30 Watts with a 12 Volt supply, or up to about 45 Watts at 17 Volts. Is this something others would be interested in?

Allen
VHS

556. Re: [SAR_APRS] Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-21 23:23:51 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 555 Message: 556

What's the power consumption and rated duty cycle for the transmitter?
How much heat does it generate?

Any chance of seeing this as a standalone amplifier that'd work with an HT?

Scott
N1VG

vhsproducts wrote:
> I have had a number of people ask me about producing an integrated,
> high power Micro-Trak, primarily for Search and Rescue users in the
> back country. I have done a little testing with a design measuring 2.5
> X 5 inches, that will produce 30 Watts with a 12 Volt supply, or up to
> about 45 Watts at 17 Volts. Is this something others would be
> interested in?
>
> Allen
> VHS
>
>
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>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>

557. Re: [SAR_APRS] Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-22 00:01:45 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 555 Message: 557

Scott,

Using Mic-E and 10 second check-ins, The amp did not have any detectable heat buildup. Personally, I think nuking the world with 10 second check-ins would be more that any reasonable person could ever want, so I think its good enough for short APRS bursts. Since it does not have any real heatsinking or T/R switching, it would not be optimal for a hand-held radio booster. If the plan was to use it as a handheld radio amp for APRS only, I suppose it could be useful. Does the world need another HT booster amp? I am having a hard time measuring my current draw, since every analog meter within 10 feet pegs when it keys up! I will get back to you on that one.

Allen
VHS

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558. Re: [SAR_APRS] Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-22 00:16:47 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 555 Message: 558

Yeah, I'm mostly just interested in an amplifier for small APRS stations, but with RX capability. I suppose what's out there now should suffice, but they're mostly overkill since they're designed for higher duty cycles.

Scott

CaptALord@... wrote:
> Scott,
>
> Using Mic-E and 10 second check-ins, The amp did not have any detectable
> heat buildup. Personally, I think nuking the world with 10 second
> check-ins would be more that any reasonable person could ever want, so I
> think its good enough for short APRS bursts. Since it does not have
> any real heatsinking or T/R switching, it would not be optimal for a
> hand-held radio booster. If the plan was to use it as a handheld
> radio amp for APRS only, I suppose it could be useful. Does the world
> need another HT booster amp? I am having a hard time measuring my
> current draw, since every analog meter within 10 feet pegs when it keys
> up! I will get back to you on that one.
>
> Allen
> VHS
>
>
>
> ---
> Start the year off right. Easy ways to stay in shape
> <http://body.aol.com/fitness/winter-exercise?NCID=aolcmp00300000002489>
> in the new year.
>

559. Re: [SAR_APRS] Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-22 01:02:19 UTC
From: Cliff A. Weaver
Topic: 555 Message: 559

Allen,

We (OVSAR) started switching to Micro-Trak8000 with great results. We already power them with a small 12v battery. We also have our truck setup as a digipeater and IGATE, we usally don't lose contact with the truck.

I have them setup to transmit every 30 sec, and we can get more than 5 hours per battery, maybe longer. (8 watts I think)

BUT more power would be nice for the really bad areas.

Count me in.

Cliff A. Weaver SAR TECH 1 K9EVV
Ohio Valley Search and Rescue
Evansville, Indiana

http://www.ovsar.org/
http://www.ovsar.org/OperationsTruck.htm

560. Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-22 15:09:53 UTC
From: n2kto
Topic: 555 Message: 560

I live in the Nrn part of NJ and 8w dose not work in the hills we have here. Very few digis here. 30-45w would be great. An integrated appch. would work best for us as there are less wires/coax for the backpack.
--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "vhsproducts" <CaptALord@...> wrote:
>
> I have had a number of people ask me about producing an integrated,
> high power Micro-Trak, primarily for Search and Rescue users in the
> back country. I have done a little testing with a design measuring 2.5
> X 5 inches, that will produce 30 Watts with a 12 Volt supply, or up to
> about 45 Watts at 17 Volts. Is this something others would be
> interested in?
>
> Allen
> VHS
>

561. Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 13:02:21 UTC
From: Craig McKerlie
Topic: 555 Message: 561

It is important too, to remember that more power will not overcome obstacles.

Face it, you could be in a valley transmitting 100 Watts or more, and your base or receiver could be on the other side. If the sides of the valley obstruct your signal from the receiver or create a null. More power is not going to do any good.

The problems with APRS being used in SARs, is that you first have the weak link of GPS devices. They must be basically in the clear to receive Satellite signals for co-ordinates. Then in some instances you have the basic problem that radio signals do not pass through obstructions, no matter how much you want them to.

If you want to work on the radio side, then more power is not necessarily the answer. Instead you should be looking at propagation. Using 6 meters or one of the lower bands would probably do more than simply trying to boost power.

Or, start looking at ways to get your antenna as high as you can. But, then it becomes a weight issue. How much extra weight are you willing to carry?

In order for APRS to work for everyone. Propagation issues need to be addressed, and the receive capabilities of GPS devices need to be drastically improved.

After all, APRS is useless if there is no GPS information to be transmitted back to the receiver or if the transmitter cannot transmit that information back to the receiver.

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "n2kto" <hubbell@...> wrote:
>
> I live in the Nrn part of NJ and 8w dose not work in the hills we have
> here. Very few digis here. 30-45w would be great. An integrated appch.
> would work best for us as there are less wires/coax for the backpack.
> --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "vhsproducts" <CaptALord@> wrote:
> >
> > I have had a number of people ask me about producing an integrated,
> > high power Micro-Trak, primarily for Search and Rescue users in the
> > back country. I have done a little testing with a design measuring
2.5
> > X 5 inches, that will produce 30 Watts with a 12 Volt supply, or
up to
> > about 45 Watts at 17 Volts. Is this something others would be
> > interested in?
> >

> > Allen
> > VHS
> >
>

562. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 13:27:12 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 555 Message: 562
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

563. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 15:40:19 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 555 Message: 563

Dave,

These devices are ham radios, and don't require licences per se, only the control operator needs a license. Are you referring to unlicensed business band radios being used as APRS trackers?

Allen
VHS

**********Start the year off right. Easy ways to stay in shape.
http://body.aol.com/fitness/winter-exercise?NCID=aolcmp00300000002489

564. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 15:49:36 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 555 Message: 564

I agree that you should look at the current capabilities of high-end GPS SiRF receivers. I have been able to use these inside the metal gas cap door in a car, in a package shipped by carriers while on board trucks, and other places you would not believe. These are not our Grandad's GPS receivers!

I do like the idea of doing a low-band GPS tracker. Going too low of course, takes us out of the operating priviledges of Tech class operators. This would be a deal killer for lots of groups. You could always use (shudder) CB. I have considered a 48 Mhz unit in the past, but I am not sure that anyone would buy them. Maybe the moderator can do a poll: Would you buy a back-pack style HF tracker for SAR?

Allen
VHS

**********Start the year off right. Easy ways to stay in shape.
http://body.aol.com/fitness/winter-exercise?NCID=aolcmp00300000002489

565. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 16:30:59 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 555 Message: 565

On Wed, 23 Jan 2008 CaptALord@... wrote:

> I agree that you should look at the current capabilities of high-end GPS
> SiRF receivers. I have been able to use these inside the metal gas cap door in a
> car, in a package shipped by carriers while on board trucks, and other places
> you would not believe. These are not our Grandad's GPS receivers!

Gas cap? That's just nuts! I'll take it though!

I've heard wonderful things about the SiRFSTAR-III chipsets. So,
the first problem mentioned in the original message has been at
least partially solved. These things track under tree cover, inside
more buildings than old units, etc.

As for the second problem, not being heard on APRS, below is a more
viable solution than going to low-band in my opinion. Look at item
#13 here:

http://wiki.ampr2.net/nwaprs/SearchAndRescue

The "Tracker2" TNC from ArgentData.com can do the pre-emptive
digipeating right now. Perhaps the TinyTrak4 will have this
capability later on as well.

The next thing to add in the firmware is store-and-forward, and
perhaps some kind of end-to-end ack's for sending the posits back to
the ICP.

If you're a sole backpacker with a tracker wanting to be heard, then
low band may be the way to go.

If it's several teams of SAR personnel with at least one tracker per
team, then pre-emptive digipeating from each team would get you
where you want to go using the normal APRS flooding protocols. This
with short antennas and normal power levels.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

566. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 17:34:18 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 555 Message: 566

> I've heard wonderful things about the SiRFSTAR-III chipsets. So,
> the first problem mentioned in the original message has been at
> least partially solved. These things track under tree cover, inside
> more buildings than old units, etc.

This sounds like a good opportunity for a shameless plug, so I thought I'd mention that I've got a big shipment of SiRFstar III GPS receivers due in later this week or early next. They're manufactured by Progin but they'll have my own label on them, and they're wired with a female DB9 with power on pin 4 so they'll plug straight into a tracker (mine, or a TinyTrak3+, for example).

They're IPX7 rated, so there's no problem leaving one on the outside of your pack or on a shoulder strap. I left one under water (powered on) for a couple of days, and wiggled the cable to stress the seals a bit, and it didn't have any trouble.

I plan to sell them individually for $53 each, with some larger quantity price breaks available. This will take the place of the older Deluo units in my store, since Deluo doesn't seem able to give me any more price breaks and their lead times are getting a little erratic.

Oh, and the new website is now up, so it should be a lot easier to find Tracker2 and OpenTracker support information. It's still at http://www.argentdata.com - the duplicate content at n1vg.net will be going away soon.

Scott
N1VG

567. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 17:39:17 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 555 Message: 567

On Wed, 23 Jan 2008, Scott Miller wrote:

> This sounds like a good opportunity for a shameless plug, so I thought
> I'd mention that I've got a big shipment of SiRFstar III GPS receivers
> due in later this week or early next. They're manufactured by Progin
> but they'll have my own label on them, and they're wired with a female
> DB9 with power on pin 4 so they'll plug straight into a tracker (mine,
> or a TinyTrak3+, for example).

+5V? How much current?

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
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568. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 18:08:29 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 555 Message: 568

> If it's several teams of SAR personnel with at least one tracker per
> team, then pre-emptive digipeating from each team would get you
> where you want to go using the normal APRS flooding protocols.

I'd love to be able to do this, but today's integrated trackers aren't integrated enough. Before I can hand a tracker to one of my SAR teams (and actually have it used properly), I'll need these features:

Small form-factor with integrated:
-5watt 2m or 6m transceiver (allows for pre-emptive digipeating)
-Tracker2 (or equivalent feature set)
-GPS receiver (SiRFstar III)
-battery (20 hour life would be plenty, let's keep this thing small)
-antenna (1/4 wave whip would be effective, SMA jack to allow for alternative antennas)

Features:
-pre-emptive digipeating
-GPS data jack (SAR members with mapping GPS can bypass internal GPS)
-power switch
-status LED (blinks green if the device is still working, red if low battery--dead simple)
-less than 16oz
-less than $300

A standalone tracker.

This is my dream tracker. I began developing one last summer, but I'm a student and quickly realized I don't have the money to buy all the trial parts I'd need for development. If anyone wants to start a project like this, or already has, I'm interested in hearing about it. When it gets to the market my SAR unit will purchase 25-30, I have requests (even offered some development funding) from another unit for about 20, and I'm sure many others will be interested.

APRS can be a lot simpler.

Tom Hayward, KD7LXL

569. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 18:18:15 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 555 Message: 569

On Wed, 23 Jan 2008, Tom Hayward wrote:

> I'd love to be able to do this, but today's integrated trackers aren't
> integrated enough. Before I can hand a tracker to one of my SAR teams
> (and actually have it used properly), I'll need these features:

This one's close to what you're talking about, except it's an OT1+
instead of a Tracker2, and you have to add battery and VHF antenna.
The GPS patch antenna is included.

http://www.rpc-electronics.com/

Not the high power you were after either, but if he later integrates
a Tracker2 into it, you might not need it.

Anyone know if this is a SiRFStar-III chipset GPS?

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
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"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
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570. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 18:36:46 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 555 Message: 570

> -5watt 2m or 6m transceiver (allows for pre-emptive digipeating)
> -Tracker2 (or equivalent feature set)
> -GPS receiver (SiRFstar III)
> -battery (20 hour life would be plenty, let's keep this thing small)
> -antenna (1/4 wave whip would be effective, SMA jack to allow for
> alternative antennas)

> trial parts I'd need for development. If anyone wants to start a
> project like this, or already has, I'm interested in hearing about it.

Already have. I've got two UHF prototypes already (minus battery pack and antenna), though the Tracker2 board to fit inside the case is still in work. That's just a mechanical redesign, for the most part. There's easily twice as much room as there was for the T2-135, so it's not hard.

Next problem is getting a VHF version. That's estimated to be about 3 months of work. What's taking the most time right now is negotiating with the radio manufacturer over specification guarantees. I'm trying to get them to commit to testing the finished product to the degree required for Part 97 use, and I also want to make sure it'll meet Part 90 specs, even if it doesn't get submitted for certification right away - assuming it passes on the first try, that's another few thousand bucks for testing and paperwork.

Getting information out of the FCC's OET people is like pulling teeth. I'm ready to just go hire a communications lawyer who can just say "THIS is exactly what needs to be done for Part 97 use, and THIS is what you have to do for Part 90, here's how the requirements change when you do X to the tracker board, and here's how you can and can't market it with each certification" and so forth.

One thing I don't have so far is a rugged waterproof enclosure for the tracker/radio module and its power supply. The module is just a metal 'brick' about the size of a deck of cards, but about 50% longer. It has a DB9 connector (hopefully wired for direct GPS connection with no adapter, but we're still working on that) and a BNC connector. Power is currently through the DB9, but I intend to add pads on the board so that separate leads could be run in with just a minor case modification.

A custom plastic enclosure would be expensive. I'll be looking at off-the-shelf options that can be customized, but they most likely won't be as efficient volume-wise. As for batteries, I think a Li-Poly battery pack that can easily be swapped out for charging or replacement would be a good option. Something that's readily available and reasonably non-proprietary.

I haven't even really looked at antennas yet. I'd probably offer at least a basic setup, but I suspect a lot is going to depend on personal preference.

> When it gets to the market my SAR unit will purchase 25-30, I have
> requests (even offered some development funding) from another unit for
> about 20, and I'm sure many others will be interested.

Good to know the demand is there! It gets a little scary sinking many thousands of dollars into getting a project like this started. Everything hinges right now on the radio manufacturer, and managing the risk associated with their end of things.

Hey, any fluent Mandarin speakers out there? =] I'm just about ready to fly back over there and sort things out in person - it'd probably be faster. Got a few months left on my visa, too...

Scott
N1VG

571. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 18:42:00 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 555 Message: 571

> This one's close to what you're talking about, except it's an OT1+
> instead of a Tracker2, and you have to add battery and VHF antenna.
> The GPS patch antenna is included.
>
> http://www.rpc-electronics.com/

The RTrak is a great little package, but it's transmit-only, at least
until SRB comes out with a transceiver. That's why it hasn't got a T2
in it - couldn't justify the added cost when most of the features
require RX capability.

Scott
N1VG

572. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 18:52:39 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 555 Message: 572

On Wed, 23 Jan 2008, Scott Miller wrote:

> The RTrak is a great little package, but it's transmit-only, at least
> until SRB comes out with a transceiver. That's why it hasn't got a T2
> in it - couldn't justify the added cost when most of the features
> require RX capability.

Ah yes. I should have remembered that. Thanks Scott!

Still, compare it's feature list with the list Tom just put out.
They're a very close match.

Tom's list is very similar to my wishlist for SAR.

Scott: At one time you were working on a T2 board that would fit
inside a tranceiver case. Is that shelved or still a possibility?

Warning: Wishlist!

I'd like a box with an integrated SiRFStar-III GPS, transceiver,
TNC, and battery, with just an external power switch and a VHF
antenna connector sticking out. This way it could be set up by a
ham and have a ham as a control operator, but could be carried by a
non-ham.

It could instead have a coax connector for a GPS antenna -or- have a
serial connector to hook in an external hocky-puck or handheld GPS.

This last option would perhaps be the best as then a halfway-decent
Garmin or Magellan GPS could show the waypoints of the other team
members, and SAR people are most likely carrying some sort of GPS
anyway so they just need the additional cable.

Downside is the cable: Anything hanging out gets hung up on rocks
and brush. Been there, done that. It sucks. Tried a headset on my
2-meter while bowhunting and gave that up after one season: Was a
problem even with the wire run down inside my camo jacket.

Bluetooth or ZigBee connection to a GPS would be even better, but
then you've got additional power drain on both ends.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
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573. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 18:56:46 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 555 Message: 573

On Wed, 23 Jan 2008, Scott Miller wrote:

> Hey, any fluent Mandarin speakers out there? =] I'm just about ready to
> fly back over there and sort things out in person - it'd probably be
> faster. Got a few months left on my visa, too...

A friend of mine (an engineer here) speaks it fluently but he's not
a ham. I'd be glad to introduce you two to see if something could
be worked out. I believe he's an EE.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
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"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
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574. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 19:14:44 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 555 Message: 574

> Scott: At one time you were working on a T2 board that would fit
> inside a tranceiver case. Is that shelved or still a possibility?

The one I was working on some time ago was for a domestically-made Ritron transceiver. The trouble with that one was that even in relatively large quantities, the RF board alone would cost me around $190. Getting a complete package under $300 would be tough.

I'm now working with a Chinese radio manufacturer that has a comparable product for a much lower price. Also, it's easier to integrate - the Ritron unit had an RF board and a controller board, and replacing the controller board with a TNC meant replicating some analog circuitry and handling all of the PLL programming and such directly. It's an easier fit mechanically in the Chinese unit, as well.

> It could instead have a coax connector for a GPS antenna -or- have a
> serial connector to hook in an external hocky-puck or handheld GPS.

I think a nice way to do it would be to have waterproof bulkhead BNC and DB9 connectors on the outside of the box, but those get expensive. Last time I looked at DB9s they were around $20.

> Bluetooth or ZigBee connection to a GPS would be even better, but
> then you've got additional power drain on both ends.

And you've got to just hope that the GPS supports waypoint transfer silently and without user intervention via Bluetooth. Also, I think acting as a BT host is going to be a pain.

Scott
N1VG

575. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-23 19:22:58 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 555 Message: 575

On Wed, 23 Jan 2008, Scott Miller wrote:

> I'm now working with a Chinese radio manufacturer that has a comparable
> product for a much lower price. Also, it's easier to integrate -

Woohoo!

> I think a nice way to do it would be to have waterproof bulkhead BNC and
> DB9 connectors on the outside of the box, but those get expensive. Last
> time I looked at DB9s they were around $20.

Does anyone make connectors that just won't rust out, that you can
add RTV to or something similar to seal up on the inside? I know,
thinking like a ham at the moment... Might not be workable as a
manufactured unit.

> > Bluetooth or ZigBee connection to a GPS would be even better, but
> > then you've got additional power drain on both ends.
>
> And you've got to just hope that the GPS supports waypoint transfer
> silently and without user intervention via Bluetooth. Also, I think
> acting as a BT host is going to be a pain.

Agreed. Another complicated protocol stack. Nothing's easy
anymore.

What about some of the SAW/Zigbee/other units that could just be
velcroed to a GPS unit, then a corresponding unit built inside the
tracker case? One of those serial->RF->serial schemes.

Come to think of it there are Bluetooth gadgets that do just that as
well but that might be cost-prohibitive for a while. I know wa7nwp
is playing with such devices, right Bill? How's that working out,
and what's the cost for two? Power budget?

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
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"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
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576. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-24 02:57:59 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 555 Message: 576

> Does anyone make connectors that just won't rust out, that you can
> add RTV to or something similar to seal up on the inside? I know,
> thinking like a ham at the moment... Might not be workable as a
> manufactured unit.

I don't think I've seen a purpose-built waterproof BNC for under $20 in small quantities. Maybe using a standard connector and sealing up the inside with RTV would be good enough.

> What about some of the SAW/Zigbee/other units that could just be
> velcroed to a GPS unit, then a corresponding unit built inside the
> tracker case? One of those serial->RF->serial schemes.

Assuming you've got serial on the GPS side. Then it's a mechanical issue. Plus more batteries. I'd rather see something like a thin, tough, flexible cable on an automatically retracting reel - I've seen them for other products. That'd at least cut down on some of the cable clutter, and might also keep you from dropping the GPS.

Scott
N1VG

577. Make Your Own Combination GPS Direct Route/Topo Device for Less Than $175.00

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-25 23:57:06 UTC
From: Ed
Topic: 577 Message: 577

" How to Make Your Own Combination GPS Direct Route/Topo Device for Less Than $175.00".

One of my missions is to put together Tracking equipment and supplies that will assist Trackers in accomplishing their tasks.

I have always wanted a GPS that would get me to the location of the search just as easily as working in the GPS/Topo mode when I reached the site.

I scoured the Internet and there were slim offerings of a combination product and most were very expensive. Additionally they did not fulfill the basic needs of a Tracker. Which to me were:

1. Being a Direct Route GPS with Points of Interest that would include gas stations, restaurants, banks, local law enforcement etc. I also need many millions of these for the 48 states so I found a way to load over 6,000,000 POI's for the 48 states.
2. The unit had to have outdoor specifications and ease of operations.
3. I needed a high-impact plastic case, small size, light weight, accuracy and the powerful microprocessor and fast buss speed using Windows CE.
4. At least a 3 hour contiguous battery life when detached from its charging source.
5. It had to have a Calculator.
6. Accurately give me Topo information, headings, bearings, latitude/longitude or UTM, etc.
7. Be very sensitive to satellite positioning and be within a 9 - 12 foot accuracy so as to work in all types of terrain and weather conditions.
8. and just for the "heck" of it play my favorite MP3 music and/or helpful video presentations when I am in the field.

My budgeted items turned out to be $136.00 for the GPS device, $30.00 for the GPS/Topo software and $8.00 for a 1GB SD/MMC card. With the price of the GPS device, and the SD/MMC cards falling, your investment will probably become smaller .

I also needed for the product to be easy to make for people whether they had Windows 95/98/98SE/Me/2K/XP or Vista. (Sorry no NT!)

If you are interested in such a device then please download the plans for the conversion

Warning This is a 233MB File
http://www.mantrackinguniversity.com/Articles/Conversion_3100_to_GPS-TOP\
O.zip

Regards,

Ed
-If I am the moderator of the Yahoo Group man_tracking_university if
you need to contact me. :)

578. Re: [SAR_APRS] Make Your Own Combination GPS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-27 02:35:37 UTC
From: kc2mmi_whitelisted email
Topic: 578 Message: 578

"had Windows 95/98/98SE/Me/2K/XP or Vista. (Sorry no NT!)"

Ed-

FWIW:
Windows2000 = NT v.5.0
Windows XP = NT v.5.1
Windows Vista = NT v.6.0
Open a command ("DOS") box and you'll see the versions all listed that way.
Because Win9x gamers were scared that things wouldn't run on NT, the MS
marketing team decided to trash NT's good name and reputation and stop using
the "NT" name on the boxes--but all of their currently supported OSes are NT
now.

I expect you mean, no support for NT4.0 and earlier.<G>

Get a free email account with anti spam protection.
http://www.bluebottle.com/tag/2

579. Re: Make Your Own Combination GPS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-28 16:24:23 UTC
From: Ed
Topic: 578 Message: 579

Actually I was on the Microsoft MVP team for Windows OS 95->-XP.

I was referring to the Operating System NT.

We decided the create 95-98 because it was correctly decided that we needed 16bit backward compatibility for all existing software in addition to 32 bit. As for NT .. just too many bugs and too much limitation.

Why force a customer to have to repurchase M$ products.

Ed

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "kc2mmi_whitelisted email" <kc2mmi@...> wrote:
>
> "had Windows 95/98/98SE/Me/2K/XP or Vista. (Sorry no NT!)"
>
> Ed-
>
> FWIW:
> Windows2000 = NT v.5.0
> Windows XP = NT v.5.1
> Windows Vista = NT v.6.0
> Open a command ("DOS") box and you'll see the versions all listed that way.
> Because Win9x gamers were scared that things wouldn't run on NT, the MS
> marketing team decided to trash NT's good name and reputation and stop using
> the "NT" name on the boxes--but all of their currently supported OSes are NT
> now.
>
> I expect you mean, no support for NT4.0 and earlier.<G>
>
> ---
> Get a free email account with anti spam protection.
> http://www.bluebottle.com/tag/2
>

580. Just the Manual for the Conversion of the Magellan 3100 to do GPS/TOPO Work

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-01-28 16:26:59 UTC
From: Ed
Topic: 580 Message: 580

One of the members had a great suggestion and ask me to post just the manual for people with dial up modems so they can read the manual first. Actually the manual has all the download information for each element of the conversion and you will not have to download the 238MB complete kit.
To download JUST the conversion manual please use this url:
http://www.mantrackinguniversity.com/Articles/Magellan_Maestro_3100_Enha\
ncement_Instructions.pdf
<http://www.mantrackinguniversity.com/Articles/Magellan_Maestro_3100_Enh\
ancement_Instructions.pdf>
Ed

581. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-02-10 19:29:46 UTC
From: Talbot Brooks
Topic: 555 Message: 581

Catching up on my reading here - I note the problem with GPS mentioned below. Are y'all familiar with inertial GPS receivers and have you had any experience using them?

Thanks,

Talbot J. Brooks, Director

Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies

Delta State University

Box 3325

Cleveland, MS 38732-3325

US National Grid 15S YT 09843639
<http://nmviewogc.cr.usgs.gov/Run.htm?BBOX=-90.73877,33.74398,-90.73047,33.7495&CLASSIDSON=39|4|6|64|20&LAYERSON=18067|12460|11914|10362|9880|10361|10360&LAYERSOFF=12458|11777|16962|16964>

(662) 846-4520 (w)

(662) 402-3772 (c)

tbrooks@...

Delta State GIS Programs <http://gis.deltastate.edu/>

US National Grid Information <http://mississippi.deltastate.edu/>

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Craig McKerlie
Sent: Wednesday, January 23, 2008 7:02 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

It is important too, to remember that more power will not overcome obstacles.

Face it, you could be in a valley transmitting 100 Watts or more, and your base or receiver could be on the other side. If the sides of the valley obstruct your signal from the receiver or create a null. More power is not going to do any good.

The problems with APRS being used in SARs, is that you first have the weak link of GPS devices. They must be basically in the clear to receive Satellite signals for co-ordinates. Then in some instances you have the basic problem that radio signals do not pass through

obstructions, no matter how much you want them to.

If you want to work on the radio side, then more power is not necessarily the answer. Instead you should be looking at propagation. Using 6 meters or one of the lower bands would probably do more than simply trying to boost power.

Or, start looking at ways to get your antenna as high as you can. But, then it becomes a weight issue. How much extra weight are you willing to carry?

In order for APRS to work for everyone. Propagation issues need to be addressed, and the receive capabilities of GPS devices need to be drastically improved.

After all, APRS is useless if there is no GPS information to be transmitted back to the receiver or if the transmitter cannot transmit that information back to the receiver.

--- In SAR_APRS@...m <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com> , "n2kto" <hubbell@...> wrote:
>
> I live in the Nrn part of NJ and 8w dose not work in the hills we have
> here. Very few digis here. 30-45w would be great. An integrated appch.
> would work best for us as there are less wires/coax for the backpack.
> --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com> , "vhsproducts" <CaptALord@> wrote:
> >
> > I have had a number of people ask me about producing an integrated,
> > high power Micro-Trak, primarily for Search and Rescue users in the
> > back country. I have done a little testing with a design measuring 2.5
> > X 5 inches, that will produce 30 Watts with a 12 Volt supply, or up to
> > about 45 Watts at 17 Volts. Is this something others would be
> > interested in?
> >
> > Allen
> > VHS
> >
>

582. Re: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-02-10 21:57:48 UTC
From: dcassoc@optonline.net
Topic: 555 Message: 582
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

583. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Really high powered Micro-Trak?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-02-10 23:14:17 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 555 Message: 583

I have not used inertially augmented GPS receivers. The newest generation of SiRF GPS receivers are totally satisfactory for any SAR application (with the possible exception of caves, buildings, and underwater environments) I have not had any problems with SiRF GPS signal acquisition in forests, jungles, and and heavy weather.

Allen
VHS

**********Biggest Grammy Award surprises of all time on AOL Music. (http://music.aol.com/grammys/pictures/never-won-a-grammy?NCID=aolcmp00300000002548)

584. mapping software

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-02-15 02:54:45 UTC
From: Ray
Topic: 584 Message: 584

Hello

I finally got everything playing togther (Dmapper, kpc3+, ft-8900, tiny trak and a vx 150) and am able to plot a search course now the only problem is that we are using delorme topo 6 and it does not automatically import positions from dmapper. Does anyone have a recomendation of a good mapping program that works well with dmapper?

Thanks for the help

585. Re: [SAR_APRS] mapping software

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-02-15 20:33:47 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 584 Message: 585

On Fri, 15 Feb 2008, Ray wrote:

> I finally got everything playing togther (Dmapper, kpc3+, ft-8900,
> tiny trak and a vx 150) and am able to plot a search course now the
> only problem is that we are using delorme topo 6 and it does not
> automatically import positions from dmapper. Does anyone have a
> recomendation of a good mapping program that works well with dmapper?

I think some of the DMapper users are on here, and the author as
well. I assume you've also seen this page which gives a short
summary, but the DMapper pages should spell out all that it works
with in much greater detail.

http://wiki.ampr2.net/nwaprs/SearchAndRescue

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

586. CDM1250 with APRS?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-02-18 23:44:51 UTC
From: mthoeft
Topic: 586 Message: 586

Hello
I'm wondering if anyone out there has successully connected a Motorola CDM-series mobile radio to a TNC (5-pin DIN)?
I'd like to outfit our command post vehicle with APRS capability, and have a few CDMs I could task to that.
Thanks
Mike

587. GPS's capable of APRS waypoints?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-02-21 19:01:24 UTC
From: Craig Anderson
Topic: 587 Message: 587

Hi all,
I seem to remember this being discussed in
the last few months, but I can't seem to find it in
my list archives. I'm looking for any list of GPS's
that will accept and display APRS packets on the
GPS. And a list of trackers that will send the APRS
packet/waypoint to the GPS would be very nice too.

Thanks very much,
Craig
n6yxk

588. Issues with a balloon based repeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-02-28 15:52:22 UTC
From: riverridge_wi
Topic: 588 Message: 588

Hi, all.....

Can anyone guide me to anyone who has flown a balloon based repeater? I am thinking a tethered balloon .. less than 500 ft..... flying for 1-2 days ... as a repeater for SAR operations in areas with out significant hills. It would seem a tracker2 with a lightweight handheld transceiver might work.

What regulations are there on tethered balloon height? Given the weight of the digipeater, balloon, and tether, how big a balloon is needed? Other than wind issues, what other problems have people encountered?

Many thanx..... jt

--
Jim Tolbert, KC9MXT

589. RE: [SAR_APRS] Issues with a balloon based repeater?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-02-28 18:51:14 UTC
From: Sam Smith
Topic: 588 Message: 589

From the FAA's website:
http://rgl.faa.gov/REGULATORY_AND_GUIDANCE_LIBRARY/RGFAR.NSF
/0/3FA243E56A63C13786256EEC00537979?OpenDocument

Sec. 101.13

Operating limitations.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, no
person may operate a moored balloon or kite--
(1) Less than 500 feet from the base of any cloud;
(2) More than 500 feet above the surface of the earth;
(3) From an area where the ground visibility is less than
three miles; or
(4) Within five miles of the boundary of any airport.
(b) Paragraph (a) of this section does not apply to the
operation of a balloon or kite below the top of any
structure and within 250 feet of it, if that shielded
operation does not obscure any lighting on the structure.

Some other limitations:

101.15 Notice requirements.

No person may operate an unshielded moored balloon or kite
more than
150 feet above the surface of the earth unless, at least 24
hours
before beginning the operation, he gives the following
information to
the FAA ATC facility that is nearest to the place of
intended
operation:

(a) The names and addresses of the owners and
operators.

(b) The size of the balloon or the size and weight of
the kite.

(c) The location of the operation.

(d) The height above the surface of the earth at which
the balloon
or kite is to be operated.

(e) The date, time, and duration of the operation.

101.17 Lighting and marking requirements.

(a) No person may operate a moored balloon or kite,
between sunset
and sunrise unless the balloon or kite, and its mooring
lines, are
lighted so as to give a visual warning equal to that
required for
obstructions to air navigation in the FAA publication
"Obstruction
Marking and Lighting" .

(b) No person may operate a moored balloon or kite
between sunrise
and sunset unless its mooring lines have colored
pennants or
streamers attached at not more than 50 foot intervals
beginning at
150 feet above the surface of the earth and visible for
at least
one mile.

101.19 Rapid deflation device.

No person may operate a moored balloon unless it has a
device that
will automatically and rapidly deflate the balloon if it
escapes from
its moorings. If the device does not function properly, the
operator
shall immediately notify the nearest ATC facility of the
location and
time of the escape and the estimated flight path of the
balloon.

I think your biggest issue will be weight, especially the
battery. Fortunately, you won't need much output power (a
few milliwatts should be plenty).

I know a lot of folks have sent up weather balloons carrying
Ham radio packages, including APRS. Do some googling for
something related to that.

Here's some hardware info I ran across for you:
http://www.eoss.org/hardware/index.html

Let us know how the project goes.
Sam KD4SHK

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
[mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of riverridge_wi
Sent: Thursday, February 28, 2008 10:52 AM

To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Issues with a balloon based repeater?

Hi, all.....

Can anyone guide me to anyone who has flown a balloon based repeater?
I am thinking a tethered balloon .. less than 500 ft..... flying for
1-2 days ... as a repeater for SAR operations in areas with out
significant hills. It would seem a tracker2 with a lightweight
handheld transceiver might work.

What regulations are there on tethered balloon height? Given the
weight of the digipeater, balloon, and tether, how big a balloon is
needed? Other than wind issues, what other problems have people
encountered?

Many thanx..... jt

--
Jim Tolbert, KC9MXT

590. USAPhotoMaps

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-03-04 14:31:06 UTC
From: lupitacox
Topic: 590 Message: 590

I think my free Windows APRS client, USAPhotoMaps, does just about everything a SAR group would need in an APRS client program. Let me know if there are things I should change or add...
http://jdmcox.com/

Doug Cox
KI6NLA

591. Re: [SAR_APRS] USAPhotoMaps

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-03-19 03:59:06 UTC
From: David Hubbell
Topic: 590 Message: 591

Hello Doug,
Do you have your Ham Radio Lic? There is a group of guys that are putting together programs for DSTAR radios. The programs are digital email and chat over the DSTAR network. Your program would lend itself quite nicely with there programs. If someone sends a message your program could put them on the map. Great for the First Responder and Operations. The programs are D-Chat and D-Rats.
http://nj6n.com/dstar/dstar_chat.html
http://d-rats.danplanet.com/wiki/
Lots of discussion on yahoo Dstar_Digital group.
Dave Hubbell N2KTO

lupitacox wrote:
>
> I think my free Windows APRS client, USAPhotoMaps, does just about
> everything a SAR group would need in an APRS client program. Let me
> know if there are things I should change or add...
> http://jdmcox.com/ <http://jdmcox.com/>
>
> Doug Cox
> KI6NLA
>
>

592. Pennington county SAR project

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-03-19 20:52:23 UTC
From: CASEY TIPPMANN
Topic: 592 Message: 592

hello all

i am the one working on our aprs system. we are leaning more to the end of personell tracking. the model i am currently working on is using a micro-trak 8000FA from byonics. i integrate an oem gps module ind an rs-232 level converter. for a case, i am using one about the same size as a Bendix/King lph radio(actualy thats what the prototype is in, i had to grind the end of the board off to fit) and using the clamshells the us forest service uses in there radios for power. i remove the 2 led`s and install an RBG led in the top of the case allong with a 4 pin mini-din for programing and possible use of the tt4 anti track if/when that comes out. antenea and all runs me about 350 in parts but creates a quite durable little unit with no way for the end user to cause any problems. they only have an on/off and mode 1/2.....SAR proof????? cant be!! in sure someone will figure out how st screw it up

for the mobiles im using the Allinco DR-135 with an argent data T2-135. this combination creates a 50watt digi, tracker and anti-tracker all in one SMALL package. i put a mag mount gps on port 1 (face plate) then if they want they can plug in a hand held gps to tell where the other stations are, or use a laptop for mapping use.

the software i use is agw tracker. it works awesome. it tracks an almost limitless number of stations(at least way more then im gonna use) and it will use almost any map. i use alltopo/bigtopo to creat a map, then i just use the info i get off bigtopo to write the inf file it needs to locate the map.

we have tested this system extensivly and have found that having a digi in each truck and one on a hill top drasticly increases the range of the 8 watt transmitter, even in the black hills of SD. which will be made all the better by byonics when/if the put a tt4 on a micro trak and make it do the same as a t2(digi,track,anti-track)

if anyone has any ideas/suggestions let me know please. im entering the final production of these and will be making a tutorial on how i built them to help anyone just getting started.

thanks in advance
Casey Tippmann, KC0VZN
Rapid City, SD
605-484-2225
imtippmann@...

593. Re: [SAR_APRS] Pennington county SAR project

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-03-19 21:08:20 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 592 Message: 593

I've built a couple of prototypes of a Tracker2 / 5-watt transceiver combo - I just wrote a blog entry about it last night:

http://n1vg.blogspot.com

When the VHF version is ready, I think it'll be a good alternative to the Micro-Trak if you want digipeating and waypoint output.

Scott
N1VG

CASEY TIPPMANN wrote:
> hello all
>
> i am the one working on our aprs system. we are leaning more to
> the end of personell tracking. the model i am currently working on
> is using a micro-trak 8000FA from byonics. i integrate an oem gps
> module ind an rs-232 level converter. for a case, i am using one
> about the same size as a Bendix/King lph radio(actualy thats what the
> prototype is in, i had to grind the end of the board off to fit) and
> using the clamshells the us forest service uses in there radios for
> power. i remove the 2 led`s and install an RBG led in the top of the
> case allong with a 4 pin mini-din for programing and possible use of
> the tt4 anti track if/when that comes out. antenea and all runs me
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> way for the end user to cause any problems. they only have an on/off
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> tell where the other stations are, or use a laptop for mapping use.
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>
> the software i use is agw tracker. it works awesome. it tracks an
> almost limitless number of stations(at least way more then im gonna
> use) and it will use almost any map. i use alltopo/bigtopo to creat
> a map, then i just use the info i get off bigtopo to write the inf
> file it needs to locate the map.
>
> we have tested this system extensivly and have found that having a
> digi in each truck and one on a hill top drasticly increases the
> range of the 8 watt transmitter, even in the black hills of SD.

> which will be made all the better by byonics when/if the put a tt4 on
> a micro trak and make it do the same as a t2(digi,track,anti-track)
>
> if anyone has any ideas/suggestions let me know please. im entering
> the final production of these and will be making a tutorial on how i
> built them to help anyone just getting started.
>
> thanks in advance
> Casey Tippmann, KC0VZN
> Rapid City, SD
> 605-484-2225
> imtippmann@...
>
>
> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
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>
>

594. Tickets Version 2.6 - a Free/Open Source CAD now Available

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-03-22 13:08:22 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 592 Message: 594

Folks, a few of us have put together a free (really!) Open Source CAD package that has gotten a good bit of attention. It's got too many goodies to list here, but it includes mapping, an APRS interface, geo-coding, driving directions, location lookup, statistics, bla, bla, bla ... . This new version includes a rather impressive EMD Cards package, plus a new unit-to-incident capability.

It's web-based package, so you already have the desktop software, and shared access is inherent. It's OS-agnostic, and runs with any recent browser. You'll need access to a web-server, either yr own inhouse, or else via yr ISP. (There's several snap-to-install server packages around, and the h'ware requirements are remarkably low; one of our guys brought it up on an old PIII notebook.)

It's available for download from SourceForge, at (watch out for line breaks)

http://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=145201&package_id=170510&release_id=586008

There's also a kick-the-tires installation with a guest login at http://www.saefern.org/tickets/

So, for those shops who can use a decent CAD package, and have like a zero budget for it, take a look. Come back with questions/comments/whatever!

There's a Tickets discussion grp at http://groups.google.com/group/open-source-cad

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD

595. Re: GPS's capable of APRS waypoints?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-03-25 14:49:36 UTC
From: Roger
Topic: 587 Message: 595

Hi Craig,

I don't get the daily emails from this group so am a little late on
my reply.

You might want to check out the AVMAP G5 APRS GPS unit. It's
expensive but hooks directly to Kenwood D-700/710s and the D7
handheld. There is a Yahoo Group for it also. It accepts and plots
APRS tracks as well as being a full featured GPS.

See-- http://www.geosat.us/

Cheers, Roger K0YY

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Craig Anderson <acraiga@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
> I seem to remember this being discussed in
> the last few months, but I can't seem to find it in
> my list archives. I'm looking for any list of GPS's
> that will accept and display APRS packets on the
> GPS. And a list of trackers that will send the APRS
> packet/waypoint to the GPS would be very nice too.
>
> Thanks very much,
> Craig
> n6yxk
>

596. Re: GPS's capable of APRS waypoints?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-03-25 14:49:53 UTC
From: Roger
Topic: 587 Message: 596

Hi Craig,

I don't get the daily emails from this group so am a little late on
my reply.

You might want to check out the AVMAP G5 APRS GPS unit. It's
expensive but hooks directly to Kenwood D-700/710s and the D7
handheld. There is a Yahoo Group for it also. It accepts and plots
APRS tracks as well as being a full featured GPS.

See-- http://www.geosat.us/

Cheers, Roger K0YY

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Craig Anderson <acraiga@...> wrote:
>
> Hi all,
> I seem to remember this being discussed in
> the last few months, but I can't seem to find it in
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> that will accept and display APRS packets on the
> GPS. And a list of trackers that will send the APRS
> packet/waypoint to the GPS would be very nice too.
>
> Thanks very much,
> Craig
> n6yxk
>

597. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: GPS's capable of APRS waypoints?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-03-25 15:10:41 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 587 Message: 597

On Tue, 25 Mar 2008, Roger wrote:

> I don't get the daily emails from this group so am a little late on
> my reply.
>
> You might want to check out the AVMAP G5 APRS GPS unit. It's
> expensive but hooks directly to Kenwood D-700/710s and the D7
> handheld. There is a Yahoo Group for it also. It accepts and plots
> APRS tracks as well as being a full featured GPS.

Also check out the Garmin Nuvi units: They have a fleet management mode that Scott Miller (who makes the OpenTracker/Tracker2 devices) has taken advantage of in the Tracker2 firmware. You can send/receive messages on your GPS now, so you don't need a HamHUD, a laptop, or a Kenwood radio in order to do it. Of course you still need a radio.

Minimal configuration would be an Alinco DR-135T 2m radio with a T2-135 board in it (from Scott) instead of the Alinco TNC board, and a Garmin Nuvi hooked to it. Some models of Nuvi work better for this than others, I don't know the model numbers off-hand. Plenty of details about it on the Tracker2 mailing list.

I have a few Tracker2 stand-alone TNC's, so I might look at a Nuvi as my next purchase.

--
Curt, WE7U: <www.eskimo.com/~archer/> XASTIR: <www.xastir.org>
"Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math." -- unknown
"Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates." -- WE7U
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!

598. Tickets CAD - Version 2.6A Now Available for Download

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-03-31 23:50:28 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 598 Message: 598

People, it's version 2.6A beta. It's that free (really!) Open Source CAD package that has gotten a good bit of attention in some circles. It's got too many goodies to list here, but it includes mapping, an APRS interface, location lookup with geo-coding, driving directions, statistics, bla, bla, bla ... . This version includes an upgraded unit-to-incident capability, some performance improvements, and a rather impressive EM Cards package.

It's web-based package so you already have the desktop software, and shared access is inherent. It's OS-agnostic, and runs with any recent browser. You'll need access to a web-server, either yr own in-house, or else via yr ISP. (There's several snap-to-install server packages around, and the h'ware requirements are remarkably low; one of our guys brought it up on an old PIII notebook.)

Version 2.6A beta is now available for download from SourceForge - along with Bob Austin's web-server-installation wiki, etc. - at (watch out for line breaks)

https://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=145201&package_id=170510&release_id=587989

There's a kick-the-tires installation with a guest login at http://www.saefern.org/tickets/

There's a Tickets-specific discussion grp at http://groups.google.com/group/open-source-cad

Admittedly, it's not for everyone. But if you can use a multi-user CAD package that you can tailor to your team's needs and have like a zero budget for it, I'm not aware of anything like it.

C'mon back.

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD

599. New Version of Tickets, a Free/Open Source CAD Available

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-05-18 09:40:35 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 592 Message: 599

It has been a while since we have had an update. We are pleased to
report that the latest version of Tickets is now available for download
from SourceForge. Version 2.6.C is primarily a maintenance release. It
fixes some problems that were seen in certain versions of PHP. It also
solves a problem some folks were reporting in using Internet Explorer.
You can download the new version at our download page
<http://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=145201&package_id=170510&release_id
=600175>

http://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=145201&package_id=170510&release_id=
600175

If you are currently using Version 2.6.A, you haven't missed a release.
Version 2.6.B was just a couple of test files that went out to those
folks who are helping test the software. Version 2.6.C is a complete
installation package.

BTW, over 400 SourceForge downloads of Version 2.6A to-date.

AS

600. Re: New Version of Tickets, a Free/Open Source CAD Available

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-05-21 13:07:21 UTC
From: William McKeehan (KI4HDU)
Topic: 592 Message: 600

Do you have a step-by-step guide for using this system? Like an
example of creating units, adding calls, dispatching units, tracking
units, etc.

I'd like to get a good demonstration of the software, but I'm not sure
how it's supposed to work, so I don't know if I'm doing something
wrong or if it's broken.

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Arnie Shore <3ashore@...> wrote:
>
> It has been a while since we have had an update. We are pleased to
> report that the latest version of Tickets is now available for download
> from SourceForge. Version 2.6.C is primarily a maintenance release. It
> fixes some problems that were seen in certain versions of PHP. It also
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>
>
>
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> folks who are helping test the software. Version 2.6.C is a complete
> installation package.
>
> BTW, over 400 SourceForge downloads of Version 2.6A to-date.
>
> AS
>

601. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: New Version of Tickets, a Free/Open Source CAD Available

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-05-22 03:06:26 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 592 Message: 601

Hello, there, and thanks for the interest. Yes, there is a guide, at
http://demo-userguide.wikidot.com/start

It's a work-in-progress and won't answer all questions, but do take a
look and get back with questions I'm sure you'll have. (Which
questions, BTW, will help us see where it can use fleshing out, so
they'll be doubly welcome.)

Fortunately for all, we have some super talent working on this - you
don't want to rely on me for doc'n - and they're cc'd here. (Guys, any
additional sources?)

Consider joining our discussion group - it's specific to Tickets at
http://groups.google.com/group/open-source-cad

And/or, contact us off-list.

AS
~~~_/)~~~~~~~_/)~~~~~~~_/)~~~~~~~_/)~~~~~~~_/)~~~~~~~_/)~~~~~~~_/)~~~~~

William McKeehan (KI4HDU) wrote:
>
> Do you have a step-by-step guide for using this system? Like an
> example of creating units, adding calls, dispatching units, tracking
> units, etc.
>
> I'd like to get a good demonstration of the software, but I'm not sure
> how it's supposed to work, so I don't know if I'm doing something
> wrong or if it's broken.
>
> --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com>,
> Arnie Shore <3ashore@...> wrote:
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> > It has been a while since we have had an update. We are pleased to
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id=600175>>
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> > installation package.
> >
> > BTW, over 400 SourceForge downloads of Version 2.6A to-date.
> >
> > AS
> >
>

602. New products

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-05-26 14:15:33 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 602 Message: 602

I attended the Dayton Hamvention with Byonics last week, and our booth was always busy! I was showing two new prototypes of Micro-Trak products. The first one is called the Micro-Trak AIO (all-in-one) which has an 8 Watt, frequency agile transmitter and a built in SirF III GPS in a waterproof case (I suppose its always safer to say "water resistant: isn't it?) Power is an 8 pack of AA batteries. The case has an O-ring sealed SMA connector, and the only control is under the water tight door. This unit is designed for SAR teams and others that want a one stop tracker. In fact, we will be offering this device pre-programmed with the customers call sign, etc. (You will of course be able to program it yourself if you wish) The case is a Pelican Micro-Case, about the size of a hand-talkie, and built for abuse. I will post photos soon, and expect to be shipping by mid June.

The second product we showed was a Micro-Trak based on the TinyTrak 4 controller. This device will allow you to send and receive tracking information, and display it on your PC, our compatible GPS display receiver. Byon is also working hard right now on developing digipeater firmware for this unit.

Byon is adding a liquid crystal display and a PS/2 keyboard to the TT4, which I will incorporate into the TT4/Micro-Trak. This will allow APRS messaging, packet capabilities, and other features, such as displaying the range and bearing to other stations. (aircraft people are going to love this!) The unit will be a single channel, 1/2 Watt transceiver.

73,

Allen
VHS/Byonics
KG6HXO

603. 2 Meter High Power APRS transmitter from BigRedBee

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-07-24 06:34:32 UTC
From: k7rkt
Topic: 603 Message: 603

BigRedBee, LLC
http://www.bigredbee.com
7/23/2008

BigRedBee, LLC is pleased to announce the world's smallest, completely integrated 5 watt 2 meter APRS/GPS transmitter.

Features include a frequency agile 2 meter RF transmitter (144 - 148 Mhz), integrated SiRFstar III GPS with patch antenna and 5 watts of RF power output. All on a single board measuring less than 1 1/4 x 3 3/4 inches.

The high sensitivity 20 channel WAAS capable SiRFstar III GPS allows operation in areas where GPS reception is troublesome, including "urban canyons", wooded areas, even inside buildings.

Nonvolatile on-board memory stores more than 1000 waypoints at a user selectable rate which can be downloaded as a .kml file viewable via Google Earth.

An integrated voltage regulator allows direct connection to an automobile (or any unregulated 12V) power source For truly portable operation, you may also provide power (4-9 volts) via (2) lithium-poly (7.4v) or (6) alkaline batteries (9.6v).

The transmitter supports fixed beacon rates, time slotting and SmartBeaconing (TM) for dynamic transmission rates based on speed and heading. For periodic operation, the GPS power may be powered down resulting in longer battery life.

For "high flying" projects, Trimble's Lassen IQ GPS module is also available for an additional cost, allowing battery powered operation above 18,000 meters.

Just plug in your SMA antenna and 12V power supply and you are on the air!

Pricing:
========
A BeeLine GPS 2MHP package deal is available for just $275, which includes a water resistant plastic case, automotive (cigarette lighter) power adapter and an RS-232 serial programming interface.

RF transmit antenna and batteries are not included.

Availability:
=============
The BeeLine 2MHPGPS is available now, but built to order.

Please visit http://www.bigredbee.com for more information including
detailed pricing and ordering information.

73,

Greg Clark
BigRedBee LLC

604. Xastir 1.9.4 Released

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-08-15 20:21:53 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 604 Message: 604

```
Project: XASTIR (xastir)
Package: xastir-stable
Date : 2008-08-15 12:59

Project "XASTIR" ('xastir') has released the new version of package
'xastir-stable'.
You can download it from SourceForge.net by following this link:
<https://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=45562&release_id=620057>
or browse Release Notes and ChangeLog by visiting this link:
<https://sourceforge.net/project/shownotes.php?release_id=620057>

Homepage <http://www.xastir.org>

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
```

605. Tickets CAD in another Live Operation - Guest Login Available

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-08-16 20:39:40 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 605 Message: 605

Folks, TJ Powell has OK'd guest login at the two-day event he's running
in Ohio this weekend, as follows:

URL is http://tjpowell.net/tickets/
userid/pword are both tempguest

Unit location information is via APRS. He's a couple of upgrades back,
so the unit tracks display is, um, imaginative.

This is the NEOMRC that tj's at the center of. (See http://neomrc.org/)

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD

606. Re: Tickets CAD in another Live Operation - Guest Login Available

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-08-17 18:31:05 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 605 Message: 606

Interesting: I'm told that some of their mobile med units are logged
into Tickets via EVDO modem.

AS

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Arnie Shore wrote:
> Folks, TJ Powell has OK'd guest login at the two-day event he's
> running in Ohio this weekend, as follows:
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> URL is http://tjpowell.net/tickets/
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> This is the NEOMRC that tj's at the center of. (See
> http://neomrc.org/)
> Arnie Shore
> Annapolis, MD
>
>
~~~~

607. Micro-Trak TT4

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-04 02:14:15 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 607 Message: 607

Just a quick update on the progress of the MT-TT4. The complete device is designed to be directly installable in a very nice anodized aluminum enclosure (http://www.boxenclosures.com/category/product_details.html?product__id=156531) The MT-TT4 will be a single channel unit, with 1/2 Watt output, and will have RJ-45 I/O's for telemetry data and display LCD display output. There will be a standard PS/2 keyboard input as well. RF output will be an SMA connector. My design goal has been to make the completed PCB as practical and flexible as possible to accomodate the wide variety of applications hams come up with!

I have envisioned a more basic MT-TT4 without a lot of bells and whistles, to be packaged very much like our MT-AIO, in a Pelican case. This would allow a hand-held package to be used as a tracking/digipeater for field use, or as a drop and run digipeater. What do you think of this idea?

73,

Allen
VHS
KG6HXO

608. RE: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak TT4

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-04 02:21:51 UTC
From: Jeff's Lists
Topic: 607 Message: 608

Allen, not sure about the unit you're talking about. Do you have a picture of it / web site for it?

I just picked up one of the byonics all in one trackers in the yellow pelican case. It's a little big, but so far I've been able to convince team members to carry it with them on operations. Now I just have to convince them to buy more J

609. Re: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak TT4

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-04 14:13:11 UTC
From: CaptALord
Topic: 607 Message: 609

Jeff,

No photos yet, it only exists as a prototype. I am looking for input on what its final form should be before I finalize a PC board. Right now, my first release of the MT-TT4 (a Micro-Trak Transceiver) is scheduled to be a PC board measuring 3.950 X 3.175 (inches). This is to accommodate all the features of the TT4, i.e. Remote crystal display, PS/2 Keyboard, and telemetry. My guess is that a lot of field portable users will want a very basic version, to plug their handheld GPS into to transmit and display their own positions, as well as those of others, on their display GPS. Much like the RINO from Garmin, except it will work through the APRS network. Also, each tracker could act as a digipeater for all the other trackers in the field, or even just a rapidly deployed digipeater.

I hope you like your Micro-Trak AIO! The trade-offs with making it smaller are of course less battery power or less RF power. The Pelican case is robust, but knowing how gear gets treated in the field, I chose to use a very protective field enclosure. We will be making the MT-AIO available as just an assembled board level product for those that want to miniaturize or create their own enclosure. Right now I am just having problems keeping up with the demand! I will post photos ASAP.

Allen
VHS

In a message dated 09/03/08 19:22:39 Pacific Daylight Time, lists@... writes:
Allen, not sure about the unit you’re talking about. Do you have a picture of it / web site for it?

I just picked up one of the byonics all in one trackers in the yellow pelican case. It’s a little big, but so far I’ve been able to convince team members to carry it with them on operations. Now I just have to convince them to buy more J

610. RE: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak TT4

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-04 15:24:38 UTC
From: Jeff's Lists
Topic: 607 Message: 610

Awesome, I really don't have the time to build things so anything that's already to go is great. I'm working on a grant request to try and purchase a bunch of units.

Next problem I have is finding out what the best APRS program is. So far we have been using APRS point, but it does not have any Topo maps. So when the team members are off a road its difficult to specifically track them.

I'd like to find a mapping program that not only would show topo but would allow me to import GPS tracks so I could put trail maps and things that we have made up for local wilderness areas. Anyone have a preference?

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of CaptALord
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 10:13 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak TT4

Jeff,

No photos yet, it only exists as a prototype. I am looking for input on what its final form should be before I finalize a PC board. Right now, my first release of the MT-TT4 (a Micro-Trak Transceiver) is scheduled to be a PC board measuring 3.950 X 3.175 (inches). This is to accommodate all the features of the TT4, i.e. Remote crystal display, PS/2 Keyboard, and telemetry. My guess is that a lot of field portable users will want a very basic version, to plug their handheld GPS into to transmit and display their own positions, as well as those of others, on their display GPS. Much like the RINO from Garmin, except it will work through the APRS network. Also, each tracker could act as a digipeater for all the other trackers in the field, or even just a rapidly deployed digipeater.

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Allen

VHS

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I just picked up one of the byonics all in one trackers in the yellow pelican case. It's a little big, but so far I've been able to convince team members to carry it with them on operations. Now I just have to convince them to buy more J

Get <http://mapquest.com/toolbar?ncid=mpqmap00050000000010> the MapQuest Toolbar.
Directions, Traffic, Gas Prices More!

611. Re: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak TT4

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-04 18:36:47 UTC
From: Keith VE7GDH
Topic: 607 Message: 611

Jeff N8JSN wrote...

> Next problem I have is finding out what the best APRS program is. So
> far we have been using APRS point, but it does not have any Topo maps.
> So when the team members are off a road its difficult to specifically
> track them.

In my opinion, UI-View. Nearly four years after the author became a silent key, we are still waiting for something better to come along. It isn't perfect, but I haven't been tempted to try anything else.

> I'd like to find a mapping program that not only would show topo but
> would allow me to import GPS tracks so I could put trail maps and
> things that we have made up for local wilderness areas.

I understand that Xastir has many mapping options. However...

I use UI-View with Precision Mapping 8 along with PMapServer 7. This gives me street-level scrollable and zoomable maps of all of North America. Whenever I need a topo map of a particular area, I open up Topo Canada and grab a screenshot of an area of interest and create a calibration file for it to use. I can then pan and zoom in UI-View as I usually do, but with the topo map showing as an underlay. Not quite the same as having it available everywhere, but with only a handful of areas of interest, it didn't take long.

The underlays can be edited to show a track, or can even be saved with a real track as well as waypoints downloaded from a GPS receiver already visible on it.

Of course, I could have used the screenshots as static maps instead.

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

612. RE: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak TT4

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-06 01:13:06 UTC
From: Jim Carr
Topic: 607 Message: 612
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

I use dmapper with Topo USA. I have attached an article that explains my setup.

Jim Carr, KC4MHH
james@...
http://www.fireline.org <http://www.fireline.org/>

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Keith VE7GDH
Sent: Thursday, September 04, 2008 2:37 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Micro-Trak TT4

Jeff N8JSN wrote...

> Next problem I have is finding out what the best APRS program is. So
> far we have been using APRS point, but it does not have any Topo maps.
> So when the team members are off a road its difficult to specifically
> track them.

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The underlays can be edited to show a track, or can even be saved with a real track as well as waypoints downloaded from a GPS receiver already visible on it.

Of course, I could have used the screenshots as static maps instead.

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

613. APRS device packaging

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-12 05:56:41 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 613 Message: 613

So the 5-watt transceivers are finally on the way from the factory and I'm looking at SAR packaging options. I've got some candidates for hard cases (Pelican 1060, OtterBox 3000, etc) but the 6.8" by 2.5" form factor is a bit longer than most of the smaller cases. A hard case is also going to take some customization to accommodate the antenna.

As an alternative, I'm thinking about a custom-made ballistic nylon pouch that'd hold the radio and battery pack. It wouldn't be as impact-resistant or waterproof as a hard case, but it'd be lighter and more compact. Possibly cheaper, too, but I've never priced custom nylon fabrication.

It ought to be easy enough to give it a loop on the back that'd fit on a belt (the radio is roughly the size of a TH-D7A) or that could be clipped to a pack, too.

Any thoughts on this option? Know anyone that does nylon design and/or production? I've got one place in mind to try so far.

Scott
N1VG

614. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS device packaging

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-12 15:30:12 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 613 Message: 614

Scott Miller wrote:
> So the 5-watt transceivers are finally on the way from the factory and
> I'm looking at SAR packaging options. I've got some candidates for hard
> cases (Pelican 1060, OtterBox 3000, etc) but the 6.8" by 2.5" form
> factor is a bit longer than most of the smaller cases. A hard case is
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> more compact. Possibly cheaper, too, but I've never priced custom nylon
> fabrication.
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> It ought to be easy enough to give it a loop on the back that'd fit on a
> belt (the radio is roughly the size of a TH-D7A) or that could be
> clipped to a pack, too.
>
> Any thoughts on this option? Know anyone that does nylon design and/or
> production? I've got one place in mind to try so far.
>
> Scott
> N1VG

Hi Scott,

The pouch would work in many environments, assuming that a high-gain antenna can be used, with the base held at about the top of the backpack.

Improving the antenna doesn't require battery power, compared with turning up the Tx power. The antenna must be (very) flexible, like the Comet and Diamond models. (one of my D7's was issued to a team that attached the tracker to their front-mount radio harness. I got the tracker back with the antenna tied in a loose knot because it kept swatting him in the face. I was amazed at the number of packets that were received at command!)

Many of our areas, especially off-trail, are too brushy (or the brush is too aggressive!) for external frame packs. A tracker would best be stored in the top of an internal frame pack (depending upon GPS antenna location), with an external mount for a high-gain antenna.

I'm thinking of a SMA bulkhead connector in a PVC pipe end-cap, with pipe stuck down along the inside of the pack, and a (short) cable coming out of a slot in the side of the pipe and to the tracker. Note that the pipe will not stick (much) outside the pack, so it will

not get caught. If the antenna is designed to use the radio mass as part of the antenna, then a wire could be attached to the inside of the bulkhead connector and extending down inside the pipe.

73 de Mykle
Southern Arizona Rescue Assn.
Tucson, AZ

615. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS device packaging

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-12 15:34:47 UTC
From: Rick Joslin
Topic: 613 Message: 615

I think that the packaging desires basically depend on the user application. For Search and Rescue, we are just as likely to be out in inclement weather as not and so something weather proof would be very desireable. On the other hand for someone using it for recreation, a lighter packaging like the nylon pouch would be. I'm torn in that I would like to do both. Maybe a hard package that would fit an off-the-shelf nylon pouch would be a good compromise.

Rick Joslin, WB5VUL
Solano Search & Rescue

----- Original Message -----
From: "Scott Miller" <scott@...>
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2008 10:56 PM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] APRS device packaging

> So the 5-watt transceivers are finally on the way from the factory and
> I'm looking at SAR packaging options. I've got some candidates for hard
> cases (Pelican 1060, OtterBox 3000, etc) but the 6.8" by 2.5" form
> factor is a bit longer than most of the smaller cases. A hard case is
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> pouch that'd hold the radio and battery pack. It wouldn't be as
> impact-resistant or waterproof as a hard case, but it'd be lighter and
> more compact. Possibly cheaper, too, but I've never priced custom nylon
> fabrication.
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> It ought to be easy enough to give it a loop on the back that'd fit on a
> belt (the radio is roughly the size of a TH-D7A) or that could be
> clipped to a pack, too.
>
> Any thoughts on this option? Know anyone that does nylon design and/or
> production? I've got one place in mind to try so far.
>
> Scott
> N1VG
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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616. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS device packaging

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-15 16:30:04 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 613 Message: 616

> Improving the antenna doesn't require battery power, compared with
> turning up the Tx power. The antenna must be (very) flexible, like
> the Comet and Diamond models. (one of my D7's was issued to a team

I'm hoping to just provide a bulkhead mount BNC or SMA on the waterproof housing. That adds a fair amount of labor to the assembly, though, since it'll probably mean removing the built-in BNC and soldering on a coax jumper. The alternative is to just have a grommeted hole in the case that a tapered antenna would slip into to maintain a reasonably water-tight seal. It wouldn't be hard to come up with some more grommet options that'd let you use a thinner antenna.

> Many of our areas, especially off-trail, are too brushy (or the brush
> is too aggressive!) for external frame packs. A tracker would best
> be stored in the top of an internal frame pack (depending upon GPS
> antenna location), with an external mount for a high-gain antenna.

Agreed. California chaparral is pretty tough, too. Though I think the only place I've ever fatally snagged a radio antenna was on a barbed wire fence...

> I'm thinking of a SMA bulkhead connector in a PVC pipe end-cap, with
> pipe stuck down along the inside of the pack, and a (short) cable
> coming out of a slot in the side of the pipe and to the tracker.

My old backpacking setup was a BNC mount for a brass welding rod antenna (I've used spring steel too, for ATV) and a counterpoise shoved down one of the seams of the pack. Seemed to work well enough, but it wasn't terribly elegant.

Scott
N1VG

617. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS device packaging

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-15 16:43:55 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 613 Message: 617

After sketching out what I needed in a pouch, I think it ought to be possible to find one off the shelf. Depends a lot on the GPS setup, though. I need to look for low-profile, right-angle, side-entry DB9 connectors.

I've got several different hard case candidates on the way, from Pelican, Otter Box, S3, and Underwater Kinetics for starters. Already have one from Seahorse here, but it's too big.

I've also got some battery packs on the way. A 10-cell AA pack will cost virtually nothing and provide the maximum allowable 15 volts with alkaline or lithium cells (about 6.5 watts out), and 12 volts with NiMH (about 5 watts). You can get a 9.6v NiMH battery pack for under $20, and any of those options should be good for at least 12 hours.

You can at least double that with a Li-Ion pack (14.8v, 5000 mAh) but they retail for about $100. I can probably find them cheaper if there's enough demand, though.

Anyway, time to get back to work - lots of stuff to get done this morning.

Scott
N1VG

Rick Joslin wrote:
> I think that the packaging desires basically depend on the user application.
> For Search and Rescue, we are just as likely to be out in inclement weather
> as not and so something weather proof would be very desireable. On the other
> hand for someone using it for recreation, a lighter packaging like the nylon
> pouch would be. I'm torn in that I would like to do both. Maybe a hard
> package that would fit an off-the-shelf nylon pouch would be a good
> compromise.
>
> Rick Joslin, WB5VUL
> Solano Search & Rescue
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "Scott Miller" <scott@...>
> To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
> Sent: Thursday, September 11, 2008 10:56 PM
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] APRS device packaging
>
>
>> So the 5-watt transceivers are finally on the way from the factory and
>> I'm looking at SAR packaging options. I've got some candidates for hard
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>> factor is a bit longer than most of the smaller cases. A hard case is
>> also going to take some customization to accommodate the antenna.
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>> As an alternative, I'm thinking about a custom-made ballistic nylon
>> pouch that'd hold the radio and battery pack. It wouldn't be as
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>>
>> Scott
>> N1VG
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618. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS device packaging

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-15 17:54:52 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 613 Message: 618

Scott,

I guess it is time for me to let you all know my simple and very effective way of keeping my TH-D7A dry during my hunting activities here in Western WA where it always rains during hunting season. No Gore-Tex does NOT work in our area so you just have to get used to being wet while hunting.

I use the Comet SMA-24 antenna instead of the stock rubber duck. I also use the Kenwood SMC-24 mic with volume control and clip it under my arm pit to keep it fairly dry. Now I protect this package by inserting it into a cheap neoprene bottle holder/protector. (I like the ones that have the bottom completely glued all the way around which makes them totally waterproof). You used to be able to buy these for a $1, now they want several dollars for them. I slip my radio into this bottle holder upside down so that I puncture the bottom of this holder with the thin antenna and bring the mic cord out the bottom. So you now have the antenna sticking out the top of this unit and the bottom is open. This entire unit goes into my backpack top side pocket with the antenna about head level. It works very well for me and I have never damaged my radio or antenna going through the heavy brush in our area.

Now to play it extra save, our local newspaper is delivered in a thin long slender plastic bag to protect the paper from all of our rain. During the really wet weather, I stick the above radio package into the plastic bag again pocking the antenna threw the solid end of the plastic bag. Then my mic lead comes out the bottom of the bag. I now just twist the open end of the bag a couple of turns before I stick it in my backpack pocket.

Like I said this is the method I have been using for years. It is cheap like me and works very well for me. If you can't visualize what I tried to describe above send me an email and I can send you a picture of my set up.

Herb, KB7UVC
NW APRS Group, West Sound Coordinator
Our WEB Site: http://www.nwaprs.info

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]On Behalf Of Scott Miller
Sent: Monday, September 15, 2008 9:30 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS device packaging

> Improving the antenna doesn't require battery power, compared with
> turning up the Tx power. The antenna must be (very) flexible, like
> the Comet and Diamond models. (one of my D7's was issued to a team

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> is too aggressive!) for external frame packs. A tracker would best
> be stored in the top of an internal frame pack (depending upon GPS
> antenna location), with an external mount for a high-gain antenna.

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> pipe stuck down along the inside of the pack, and a (short) cable
> coming out of a slot in the side of the pipe and to the tracker.

My old backpacking setup was a BNC mount for a brass welding rod antenna (I've used spring steel too, for ATV) and a counterpoise shoved down one of the seams of the pack. Seemed to work well enough, but it wasn't terribly elegant.

Scott
N1VG

619. Tickets CAD Version 2.8 Beta is Available

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-17 20:52:36 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 619 Message: 619

Folks, it's available in the Files section of
http://groups.google.com/group/open-source-cad

Also see the 'about_2_8_beta.txt' file for some information re its good
stuff.

(Yep, still free, still Open Source. Always will be.)

In a nutshell:
1. Lots of cleanup and removal of moderate-to-consequential uglies.
2. Coordinate display format is user-selectable, between the three
usual suspects. You may change these at any time without affecting the
database; only the display format is involved, not the stored data.
3. You can click on a Position caption/link to see the position
coordinates in the three forms.
4. USNG coordinates shown for all position data.
5. Tracks processing is much improved, and includes a track altitude
graphic. (Which will really thrill our Florida buddies, I'm sure.)
6. Importantly, this release includes a revised data base schema, which
should allow planned upgrades to be accomplished via patches rather than
an install process.

Version 2.8 is being released as a complete install package, and needs
an empty database per the install instructions file (See file
INSTALL.txt in the Files section at above URL.) Please let me know if
you need/want to keep existing data and we'll work something out.

BTW, I gotta note the contributions of a number of you folks who've
passed on ideas and - importantly - patience! Guys like Matt, TJ
Powell, Bill Lewis, and recently, Al Studt. Thank you!

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD

620. Upgrade: Tickets CAD Version 2.8 a Beta is Available

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-20 15:42:38 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 619 Message: 620

Folks, a newer version is now available, along with revised instructions
re installation.

This release fixes a PHP-version dependency that several of you
encountered; the new INSTALL.txt instructions file is somewhat clearer,
with an example url.

See the FILES section at http://groups.google.com/group/open-source-cad
for these jewels! (And join up, if you haven't already done so.)

(If you have a functioning installation of Tickets 2.8 then there's no
real need to bother.)
> Arnie Shore
> Annapolis, MD
>

621. Tickets CAD Version 2.8 b Beta is Available

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-22 18:37:51 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 619 Message: 621

Folks, adhering to an Open Source software philosophy of "release early, release often", subject version is now available. It's a total install, requiring an empty database. Users needing/wanting to keep existing data please contact me.

This release fixes an APRS data problem in which position data may or may not have been processed, as well as several other issues.

See the FILES section at http://groups.google.com/group/open-source-cad. (And join up, if you haven't already done so.)

Users are strongly encouraged to install this version

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD

622. Tickets CAD and Graphics

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-22 21:56:51 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 619 Message: 622

Folks, graphics are used in a couple of spots where it's useful, notably the new tracks-altitude and Incident Reports, the latter showing the distribution by incident severity, city, and type (as pie charts.)

If you don't see these graphics, it's probably because yr PHP options aren't set. (You can confirm this by a look at yr phpinfo page; if set correctly, you'll see a GD heading almost halfway down the page. If not, proceed as follows.)

Correcting that is straightforward. Find your php.ini file, and there look for the line that refers to extension=php_gd2 something. (It will vary by OS; in win32 environments it's "extension=php_gd2.dll")

Whatever it is, 'un-comment' that line by removing the semi-colon at its left end and saving the changed file.

A peculiarity for WAMP users: two copies of the php.ini file exist, one in the Apache directory and one in the php directory. The 'un-commenting' seems to be needed for both.

You'll need to re-start yr web server for that to take effect, so re-booting yr system is prbly the least involved way of doing that.

AS
>

623. Team Member and Training Database or Spreadsheet?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-27 16:52:07 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 619 Message: 623

I'll appreciate hearing from anyone who's put something like subject software together. Anything non-proprietary is welcome, in any language or platform.

(I'm looking at adding something like this to our Open Source CAD. I'll certainly credit any authors appropriately.)

as

624. Re:Team Member and Training Database or Spreadsheet?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-09-28 15:52:15 UTC
From: Kevin Fallon
Topic: 619 Message: 624

Arnie, you and I e-mailed about this in November of 2007. I have continued development, gathered other developers, and now have a package that is in use by several agencies in my region. I was actually considering contacting you, as I had noticed that the package on your website had not progressed much recently. The software is actually four modules:

1. Produce professional IDs with automated data collection features. (Currently two barcodes and/or proximity tags)
2. Track info, certifications and photos for organization members and equipment. Will produce reports and reminder emails if certs or inspections are expiring. Future feature will allow BAE (backend attribute exchange; part of NIMS) so you can verify credentials from another agency over the net. Verify certain medical certs via governmental website weekly. These first two modules are now being implemented at our emergency management agency, a local health department, the local ARES group, and the local MRC group. Others are watching...
3. Call-out notification system. This system can notify hundreds of people in minutes. Uses SMS (text messaging), e-mail, instant messaging (jabber) and VOIP voice calls. Tracks responses to allow command staff to anticipate responders. Allows various agencies to do load balancing across implementations. (eg Health department system might help make calls for MRC members.)
4. ICS management of an incident. Tracks teams, and equipment. Produces day pass IDs. Can run from a live CD, so ANY computer or laptop can be used at an incident. Does not rely on any infrastructure. This module is not yet usable, but is in development.

All modules and indeed, the entire tool chain are FLOSS software. Most is GPL. How much more info would you like ?

Sincerely,
Kevin Fallon
KB1KTR
kfallon@...

625. Screenshots and presentation materials

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-09 19:46:15 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 625 Message: 625

I'm doing a session on APRS at SARCity this Saturday, and I'm looking for any interesting Xastir screenshots (or any other applications, for that matter), pictures from the field, or anything else that would be good for a visual.

I'm having no luck with Xastir on my laptop and might not have it running in time for the session. Cygwin's dead, and the VMware player crashes when I try to boot the Xastir VM image. I'll probably just keep it simple and do the live demo with UI-View32 or something.

Thanks,

Scott
N1VG

626. Re: [SAR_APRS] Screenshots and presentation materials

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-09 19:55:15 UTC
From: Jason Rausch
Topic: 625 Message: 626

Scott,

I run Xastir as my home station now and I would love
to send you some screenshots. Except, everytime I
take one, I only get the map, no stations show in the
screenshot. I am using the built in PNG screenshot
function.

I'm using Damn Small Linux and I can't find any
built-in screenshot function in DSL. Not sure how
Curt gets those pretty screenshots for the website ;o)

Jason KE4NYV
RPC Electronics
www.rpc-electronics.com

--- Scott Miller <scott@...> wrote:

> I'm doing a session on APRS at SARCity this
> Saturday, and I'm looking
> for any interesting Xastir screenshots (or any other
> applications, for
> that matter), pictures from the field, or anything
> else that would be
> good for a visual.
>
> I'm having no luck with Xastir on my laptop and
> might not have it
> running in time for the session. Cygwin's dead, and
> the VMware player
> crashes when I try to boot the Xastir VM image.
> I'll probably just keep
> it simple and do the live demo with UI-View32 or
> something.
>
> Thanks,
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>
>

627. SAR mapping integration

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-09 21:09:25 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 627 Message: 627

Another question for my presentation... I'm doing a slide on APRS limitations and shortcomings in relation to SAR. In my mind, one of the biggest is lack of integration with whatever mapping software a team may already be using.

I know DMAPPER is supposed to integrate with Terrain Navigator Pro, but I seem to remember that it was semi-automated and a little clunky. And aside from that, non-APRS mapping programs don't make it easy to do APRS stuff like create objects and items, view tracks, send messages, and so forth.

I want to make sure that I'm not missing some new development that might be relevant. I'm pushing Xastir as the best existing SAR APRS client, but it's not the simplest thing to set up.

Scott
N1VG

628. Re: [SAR_APRS] SAR mapping integration

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-09 22:20:39 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 627 Message: 628

Scott, we've integrated APRS position data into our Open Source CAD,
Tickets. Displaying tracks with altitude.

FYI.

AS

Scott Miller wrote:
>
> Another question for my presentation... I'm doing a slide on APRS
> limitations and shortcomings in relation to SAR. In my mind, one of the
> biggest is lack of integration with whatever mapping software a team may
> already be using.
>
> I know DMAPPER is supposed to integrate with Terrain Navigator Pro, but
> I seem to remember that it was semi-automated and a little clunky. And
> aside from that, non-APRS mapping programs don't make it easy to do APRS
> stuff like create objects and items, view tracks, send messages, and so
> forth.
>
> I want to make sure that I'm not missing some new development that might
> be relevant. I'm pushing Xastir as the best existing SAR APRS client,
> but it's not the simplest thing to set up.
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>
> _

629. Re: [SAR_APRS] Screenshots and presentation materials

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-09 21:40:54 UTC
From: Keith VE7GDH
Topic: 625 Message: 629

Jason KE4NYV wrote...

> I run Xastir as my home station now and I would love
> to send you some screenshots. Except, everytime I
> take one, I only get the map, no stations show in the
> screenshot. I am using the built in PNG screenshot
> function.

www.irfanview.com - freebie download and install. Click options - capture (or just hit C on the keyboard) and decide how you want to handle the screenshot... whole desktop area, foreground window or foreground window - client area.

Irfan is a "graphics viewer" but does many other things. It isn't a full-blown graphics editor, but you can crop, lighten, darken, play around with colours or gamma matching. Worth every penny at twice the money!

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

630. Re: [SAR_APRS] SAR mapping integration

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-09 21:49:30 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 627 Message: 630

On Thu, 9 Oct 2008, Scott Miller wrote:

> I know DMAPPER is supposed to integrate with Terrain Navigator Pro, but
> I seem to remember that it was semi-automated and a little clunky. And
> aside from that, non-APRS mapping programs don't make it easy to do APRS
> stuff like create objects and items, view tracks, send messages, and so
> forth.
>
> I want to make sure that I'm not missing some new development that might
> be relevant. I'm pushing Xastir as the best existing SAR APRS client,
> but it's not the simplest thing to set up.

It gets easier after the first 1000 times...

There was a Wiki page that described the sort of stuff you're
talking about, but the Wiki has been down for some months. I'll try
again to request the particular source for that page so it can be
resurrected elsewhere (probably _your_ Wiki), but that won't help
you this week.

Another one that I recall was a shim program to connect APRS to "All
Topo Maps" or some-such. I think it would work with most APRS
programs. It was little known/used. I think it would decode/plot
stations on the maps. In that case you'd use the APRS program it
was getting it's data from to do the rest.

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

631. Re: [SAR_APRS] SAR mapping integration

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-09 21:50:19 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 627 Message: 631

Scott Miller wrote:
> Another question for my presentation... I'm doing a slide on APRS
> limitations and shortcomings in relation to SAR. In my mind, one of the
> biggest is lack of integration with whatever mapping software a team may
> already be using.

We are using OziExplorer to display topo maps, and UI-View to handle
the APRS side (displaying wide-area maps). Darryl Smiths OziAPRS
provides the interface between the two, displaying APRS waypoints on
the topo map. And, using a T2-135, of course ;-)

The advantage of OziExplorer is the ability to display any image that
can be georeferenced. So, that includes maps that we may create
independently, perhaps having removed trails (poor quality) and
add trails that we have mapped. It also includes maps that we may
scan, like a popular trail map.

Commercial USGS topo map display programs are limited to their maps.
On the other hand, these programs provide seamless map displays.

Running these three programs works on a Win98se laptop.

Since I now have a better laptop, I will frequently use GlobalMapper
to display a variety of data layers, with 3D views available.

Looking forward to more alternatives to TH-D7a(g) trackers.

73 de Mykle N7JZT

632. Re: [SAR_APRS] Screenshots and presentation materials

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-09 21:50:47 UTC
From: Jason Rausch
Topic: 625 Message: 632

Thanks Keith, I'll give that a shot.

Jason KE4NYV

--- Keith VE7GDH <ve7gdh@...> wrote:

> Jason KE4NYV wrote...
>
> > I run Xastir as my home station now and I would
> love
> > to send you some screenshots. Except, everytime I
> > take one, I only get the map, no stations show in
> the
> > screenshot. I am using the built in PNG
> screenshot
> > function.
>
> www.irfanview.com - freebie download and install.
> Click options -
> capture (or just hit C on the keyboard) and decide
> how you want to
> handle the screenshot... whole desktop area,
> foreground window or
> foreground window - client area.
>
> Irfan is a "graphics viewer" but does many other
> things. It isn't a
> full-blown graphics editor, but you can crop,
> lighten, darken, play
> around with colours or gamma matching. Worth every
> penny at
> twice the money!
>
> 73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
> --
> "I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"
>
>

633. Re: [SAR_APRS] Screenshots and presentation materials

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-09 22:56:49 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 625 Message: 633

I use ImageForge's freebie, fm http://www.cursorarts.com/ca_imffw.html
for all my screenshots and general image work.

Something about 'cold, dead, fingers' really applies here!

AS

Keith VE7GDH wrote:
>
> Jason KE4NYV wrote...
>
> > I run Xastir as my home station now and I would love
> > to send you some screenshots. Except, everytime I
> > take one, I only get the map, no stations show in the
> > screenshot. I am using the built in PNG screenshot
> > function.
>
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> handle the screenshot... whole desktop area, foreground window or
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> twice the money!
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> 73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
> --
> "I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"
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>

634. APRS and ArcView

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-12 23:54:24 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 634 Message: 634

Just got back from SARCity in Barstow a little while ago. After doing my APRS class on Saturday morning, I spent some time in the GIS class that Tom Patterson from ESRI put on. ESRI had written a module for ArcView to capture position data from Thales radios (and the Infinity GPS mics) and plot it, so I grabbed some sample data from one of the Infinity mics and reverse-engineered the serial output - or at least, the important bits.

This morning I wrote a quick mod for the Tracker2 to output the $GPWGT strings (aren't proprietary sentences supposed to start with $P?) and it works. If anyone's using ArcView/ArcMap/ArcGIS/whatever, and you've got a T2, let me know and I'll send you the new firmware. Since the conversion is done on the receive side, all APRS traffic, regardless of format, should show up properly.

The bad news is that from the few minutes I spent playing with it, the Thales module sucks. It redraws your whole map to plot points, and when I first started it the default rate was faster than it could draw the whole thing. There was also no breadcrumb function, unless you count leaving duplicate waypoints. I can't believe there hasn't been more done with real-time tracking in ArcView. They've got their Tracking Analyst extension which sounds like it should do the trick, but they couldn't tell me anything about it or how it relates to the Thales module.

If you don't have ArcView and you'd like to, contact Tom at tpatterson@... and ask about SAR grants. Apparently ESRI likes giving software away to SAR teams. They were also handing out copies with 1-year student licenses to all attendees.

Scott
N1VG

635. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-13 00:08:18 UTC
From: imtippmann@aol.com
Topic: 634 Message: 635

you can bet i would love to play with that.?? We use ONLY ARCVIEW and ARCmap here.? this was going to be my next major battle implementing aprs into our operations.? is the module somthing that comes with arc, or download seperate?? cost?...?? on a side note, how are the t2/tranciever proto types coming?? realy looking forward to them

-----Original Message-----
From: Scott Miller <scott@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sun, 12 Oct 2008 5:54 pm
Subject: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView

Just got back from SARCity in Barstow a little while ago. After doing my APRS class on Saturday morning, I spent some time in the GIS class that Tom Patterson from ESRI put on. ESRI had written a module for ArcView to capture position data from Thales radios (and the Infinity GPS mics) and plot it, so I grabbed some sample data from one of the Infinity mics and reverse-engineered the serial output - or at least, the important bits.

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Scott
N1VG

636. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-13 03:28:24 UTC
From: Talbot Brooks
Topic: 634 Message: 636

All -

I've been lurking in this group for a while - sent a message out about GIS, US Nat'l Grid, and whatnot some time ago. If you like, this is something we can probably help with - what you're describing gets even easier if you use the free GPS toolbar within ArcMap as it will breadcrumb and does not refresh the entire map with each position update. You might also note that the object model for ArcGIS is fairly open and can be pulled from the ESRI website (drop me a note offline and we can talk more about this). What you're better off doing (and I'll share this with Tom) is pulling the GPS signal into a COM port. There are freeware programs that do this already, but I don't think any are open source (Spanner from Garmin might be the closest). If this audience is interested in integrating GIS with your work and would like to become more closely involved with that community, please accept my invitation to attend the Geospatial Information and Technology Association Emergency Response Symposium this April in Tampa. While we've just finished the program and are in the process of getting the web page and whatnot made, last year's content is still available (free) at http://www.gita.org/ers If you are truly interested in attending and your organization truly cannot afford it, please drop me a note offline and we'll discuss some options.

Best wishes,

Talbot Brooks, Director
Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information Technologies
Box 3325
Delta State University
Cleveland, MS 38733-3325

US Nat'l Grid Location: 15S YT 09843638

(662) 846-4520 (office)
(662) 402-3772 (cell)
(662) 846-4516 (lab)
(662) 846-4099 (fax)

tbrooks@...

http://gis.deltastate.edu
http://mississippi.deltastate.edu
http://cleveland.deltastate.edu/msusng

and occasionally

GIS, Operations
MS Emergency Management Agency
1 MEMA Dr.
Pearl, MS 39288
800-222-MEMA

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com on behalf of imtippmann@...
Sent: Sun 10/12/2008 7:08 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView

you can bet i would love to play with that.?? We use ONLY ARCVIEW and ARCmap here.? this was going to be my next major battle implementing aprs into our operations.? is the module somthing that comes with arc, or download seperate?? cost?...?? on a side note, how are the t2/tranciever proto types coming?? realy looking forward to them

-----Original Message-----
From: Scott Miller <scott@opentrac.org>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sun, 12 Oct 2008 5:54 pm
Subject: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView

Just got back from SARCity in Barstow a little while ago. After doing my APRS class on Saturday morning, I spent some time in the GIS class that Tom Patterson from ESRI put on. ESRI had written a module for ArcView to capture position data from Thales radios (and the Infinity GPS mics) and plot it, so I grabbed some sample data from one of the Infinity mics and reverse-engineered the serial output - or at least, the important bits.

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Scott
N1VG

637. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-13 14:45:38 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 634 Message: 637

The Thales thing showed up as a toolbar, not an extension. I think it might be a separate install - Tom said it was on one of the CDs that they handed out in the class, so I'll take a look at those when I get a chance.

The transceivers are on the way now, but there was a delay with customs clearance and of course the freight carrier called while I was half way to Barstow and I couldn't get the documents they needed before closing time and it's a holiday weekend. Still, they should be in by the end of the week.

I've got a few prototype T2 boards for them, but they're going to need at least a little bit of tweaking before they're ready. Say 3 weeks to get the next board revision out and produced in pilot quantities.

Scott
N1VG

imtippmann@... wrote:
> you can bet i would love to play with that. We use ONLY ARCVIEW and
> ARCmap here. this was going to be my next major battle implementing
> aprs into our operations. is the module somthing that comes with arc,
> or download seperate? cost?... on a side note, how are the
> t2/tranciever proto types coming? realy looking forward to them
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Scott Miller <scott@...>
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Sun, 12 Oct 2008 5:54 pm
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView
>
> Just got back from SARCity in Barstow a little while ago. After doing
> my APRS class on Saturday morning, I spent some time in the GIS class
> that Tom Patterson from ESRI put on. ESRI had written a module for
> ArcView to capture position data from Thales radios (and the Infinity
> GPS mics) and plot it, so I grabbed some sample data from one of the
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> grants. Apparently ESRI likes
> giving software away to SAR teams. They were also handing out copies
> with 1-year student licenses to all attendees.
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>
> ---
> McCain or Obama? Stay updated on coverage of the Presidential race while
> you browse - Download Now
> <http://toolbar.aol.com/elections/download.html?ncid=emlweusdown00000001>!
>

638. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-13 14:49:21 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 634 Message: 638

Hi Talbot,

Does the GPS toolbar allow plotting of multiple stations? That's really
the difficult part - almost every mapping program will take a local GPS
and plot your own position, but not many have the ability to take a
position, station/object name, course/speed, and symbol.

Scott
N1VG

Talbot Brooks wrote:
> All -
>
> I've been lurking in this group for a while - sent a message out about
> GIS, US Nat'l Grid, and whatnot some time ago. If you like, this is
> something we can probably help with - what you're describing gets even
> easier if you use the free GPS toolbar within ArcMap as it will
> breadcrumb and does not refresh the entire map with each position
> update. You might also note that the object model for ArcGIS is fairly
> open and can be pulled from the ESRI website (drop me a note offline and
> we can talk more about this). What you're better off doing (and I'll
> share this with Tom) is pulling the GPS signal into a COM port. There
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> open source (Spanner from Garmin might be the closest). If this
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>
> US Nat'l Grid Location: 15S YT 09843638
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> tbrooks@...
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> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com on behalf of imtippmann@...
> Sent: Sun 10/12/2008 7:08 PM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView
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639. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-13 15:28:43 UTC
From: Talbot Brooks
Topic: 634 Message: 639

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USNG 15SYT0982336405
<http://nmviewogc.cr.usgs.gov/Run.htm?BBOX=-90.75872,33.73628,-90.70791,
33.76061&CLASSIDSON=39|4|6|64|20&LAYERSON=18067|12460|11914|9942|10362|9
880|10361|10360|23115|1695&LAYERSOFF=12458|22563|16830|18648|18647|16831
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Sent: Monday, October 13, 2008 9:49 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView

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Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-15 03:42:17 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 634 Message: 640

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Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-15 14:36:04 UTC
From: Talbot Brooks
Topic: 634 Message: 641
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Scott -

Sorry - Infinity Gear - and sure I'll see what I can do - I'm out of town the remainder of the week and early next week - but will try to get on it thereafter.

Thanks,

Talbot Brooks, Director
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>> ARCmap here.? this was going to be my next major battle implementing
>> aprs into our operations.? is the module somthing that comes with arc,
>> or download seperate?? cost?...?? on a side note, how are the
>> t2/tranciever proto types coming?? realy looking forward to them

>>
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Scott Miller <scott@... <mailto:scott%40opentrac.org>>
>> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com>
>> Sent: Sun, 12 Oct 2008 5:54 pm
>> Subject: [SAR_APRS] APRS and ArcView
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>
>> Just got back from SARCity in Barstow a little while ago. After doing
>> my APRS class on Saturday morning, I spent some time in the GIS class
>> that Tom Patterson from ESRI put on. ESRI had written a module for
>> ArcView to capture position data from Thales radios (and the Infinity
>> GPS mics) and plot it, so I grabbed some sample data from one of the
>> Infinity mics and reverse-engineered the serial output - or at least,
>> the important bits.
>>
>> This morning I wrote a quick mod for the Tracker2 to output the $GPWGT
>> strings (aren't proprietary sentences supposed to start with $P?) and it
>> works. If anyone's using ArcView/ArcMap/ArcGIS/whatever, and you've got
>> a T2, let me know and I'll send you the new firmware. Since the
>> conversion is done on the receive side, all APRS traffic, regardless of
>> format, should show up properly.
>>
>> The bad news is that from the few minutes I spent playing with it, the
>> Thales module sucks. It redraws your whole map to plot points, and when
>> I first started it the default rate was faster than it could draw the
>> whole thing. There was also no breadcrumb function, unless you count
>> leaving duplicate waypoints. I can't believe there hasn't been more
>> done with real-time tracking in ArcView. They've got their Tracking
>> Analyst extension which sounds like it should do the trick, but they
>> couldn't tell me anything about it or how it relates to the Thales module.
>>
>> If you don't have ArcView and you'd like to, contact Tom at
>> tpatterson@... <mailto:tpatterson%40esri.com> and ask about SAR
> grants. Apparently ESRI likes
>> giving software away to SAR teams. They were also handing out copies
>> with 1-year student licenses to all attendees.
>>
>> Scott
>> N1VG
>>
>>
>>
>>
>>

>>
>
>

Yahoo! Groups Links

642. Re: SAR mapping integration

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-15 18:32:06 UTC
From: Tom Russo
Topic: 627 Message: 642

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...> wrote:
>

>
> Another one that I recall was a shim program to connect APRS to "All
> Topo Maps" or some-such. I think it would work with most APRS
> programs. It was little known/used. I think it would decode/plot
> stations on the maps. In that case you'd use the APRS program it
> was getting it's data from to do the rest.

You're thinking of "APRS2ATM" (or a2a100.exe), which is actually
already listed on info.aprs.net:

http://info.aprs.net/index.php?title=APRS2ATM

It reads either a TNC directly or an APRS-IS-style stream and creates
"annotation" files for All Topo Maps. The communication is one-way:
All Topo Maps can display APRS data, but you can't create APRS data
(such as objects or items) through the All Topo Maps interface, nor
does it do much more than plot a point and draw a track for each
station (no way to look up other details of the packets received).
Our local SAR Support team swears by it (although I, personally, think
that the one-way nature of it makes it a sub-optimal (and nearly
"pessimal") solution). But if you have All Topo Maps (a very, very
good mapping program with excellent manufacturer support for Search
and Rescue), it's a good way to make use of the tool for APRS.

643. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: SAR mapping integration

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-15 20:04:53 UTC
From: Lisa Harper
Topic: 627 Message: 643

Anyone try APRSKML? https://aprskml.dev.java.net/

I like the idea of a generic server that can feed data to any number
of mapping apps. I use GE a lot for SAR (we generally have a network
available). Then use whatever mapping application you prefer. The
advantage of GE is that it's the lowest common denominator. You can
also use it for GPS-mic integration as well as Garmin Astro and
whatever. Of course, map caching is an issue....

Lisa Harper
KA4WRU

On Wed, Oct 15, 2008 at 2:32 PM, Tom Russo <russo@...> wrote:
> --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...> wrote:
>>
>
>>
>> Another one that I recall was a shim program to connect APRS to "All
>> Topo Maps" or some-such. I think it would work with most APRS
>> programs. It was little known/used. I think it would decode/plot
>> stations on the maps. In that case you'd use the APRS program it
>> was getting it's data from to do the rest.
>
> You're thinking of "APRS2ATM" (or a2a100.exe), which is actually
> already listed on info.aprs.net:
>
> http://info.aprs.net/index.php?title=APRS2ATM
>
> It reads either a TNC directly or an APRS-IS-style stream and creates
> "annotation" files for All Topo Maps. The communication is one-way:
> All Topo Maps can display APRS data, but you can't create APRS data
> (such as objects or items) through the All Topo Maps interface, nor
> does it do much more than plot a point and draw a track for each
> station (no way to look up other details of the packets received).
> Our local SAR Support team swears by it (although I, personally, think
> that the one-way nature of it makes it a sub-optimal (and nearly
> "pessimal") solution). But if you have All Topo Maps (a very, very
> good mapping program with excellent manufacturer support for Search
> and Rescue), it's a good way to make use of the tool for APRS.
>
>

644. Re: SAR mapping integration

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-17 22:18:07 UTC
From: Tyson
Topic: 627 Message: 644

I use it all the time, the thing you need to watch out for is that the track left behind a station will not be accurate unless you change the properties of it to "clamp to ground" otherwise some of the track will be above the ground and will offset when viewed at an angle. It will also sink into the ground in other areas and disappear when you zoom in. Once the periodic refresh happens (I set mine to every minute) then you lose your local "clamp to ground" settings.

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Lisa Harper" <lisah2u@...> wrote:
>
> Anyone try APRSKML? https://aprskml.dev.java.net/
>
> I like the idea of a generic server that can feed data to any number
> of mapping apps. I use GE a lot for SAR (we generally have a network
> available). Then use whatever mapping application you prefer. The
> advantage of GE is that it's the lowest common denominator. You can
> also use it for GPS-mic integration as well as Garmin Astro and
> whatever. Of course, map caching is an issue....
>
> Lisa Harper
> KA4WRU

645. USA Photomaps

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-17 22:20:14 UTC
From: Tyson
Topic: 645 Message: 645

If you have not used USA Photomaps in a while for APRS give it a try.
Doug has added some very good features and has designed a neat
interface for APRS tracking.

646. Tickets CAD Version 2.9 Beta is Available

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-10-28 11:36:50 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 619 Message: 646

Folks, here's what's included:

1. APRS data handling has been significantly corrected and improved. Repeated zero-speed posreps are not retained in the database.

2. Dispatching a unit that has its 'contact via' setting an email address - including one for cellphone texting - generates mail to that address.

3. Cellphones/texting messages will be automatically 'chunked' to reflect the size limit per message. A cell/text address is detected by a match against a LONG list of domains, both US and overseas.

4. Operator-level users may now perform all needed ticket, unit and dispatch data updates.

5. The database schema is expanded to accommodate future growth in Tickets capabilities. Teams and members - with attributes of titles, skills, courses taken, certificates gained, plus document management and photos - are now schema elements, although without any code in this version.

6. 'Notifies' is expanded to accommodate automatic notification via email/texting whenever any ticket is edited or written, with a filter for incident severity.

Download from SourceForge at
https://sourceforge.net/projects/openises/

Join discussion group at
http://groups.google.com/group/open-source-cad

Still free, still Open Source, still OS-agnostic, and supports IE, Firefox, Safari, and Chrome browsers
> Arnie Shore
> Annapolis, MD
>
>

647. Rescue operator headset for extreme environments

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-01 09:13:35 UTC
From: Mike R
Topic: 647 Message: 647

We are trying to equip Canyon Rescue Teams with "headsets" that will work in a canyon, so we need -

- waterproof
- lightweight
- rugged (not easily damaged)
- safe (will not endanger operator - e.g. not block hearing, least chance of wires getting caught up on something)
- reliable
- not pick up extremely loud noise from nearby waterfall (throat pickup mic)
- leave hands free for rope and stretcher handling (press-to-talk on finger operated by thumb)
- receive volume loud enough, but earphones do not block local sound from ears.

Can anyone suggest any -
- existing users,
- suppliers of equipment
- discussion groups interested in this

Thanks

Mike
Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue

648. Re: [SAR_APRS] Rescue operator headset for extreme environments

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-01 13:48:49 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 647 Message: 648

Hi Mike,

Having a finger-mounted PTT is going to require at least one long wire.
You've just got to mount it carefully to avoid snagging it.

I carry one model (that I picked up for hang glider and paraglider use)
that has big flat speakers for both ears and a finger PTT. I've got it
listed here:

https://www.argentdata.com/catalog/product_info.php?products_id=97

As far as I know, it's not waterproof, but I've never tried. I think
they make a throat mic version designed for military helmets too, but I
can't find the product catalog at the moment. It's a Chinese company
that makes them, and they don't really have anything useful online.

The one I've got is plenty loud, if your radio will drive it. I really
like having both ears. And since it mounts in the helmet and not on
your head it shouldn't block your hearing.

The bad news is that even if they have the right product, I'd need to
order at least 200 units. But at least they're reasonably priced...

Scott
N1VG

Mike R wrote:
> We are trying to equip Canyon Rescue Teams with "headsets" that will
> work in a canyon, so we need -
>
> - waterproof
> - lightweight
> - rugged (not easily damaged)
> - safe (will not endanger operator - e.g. not block hearing, least
> chance of wires getting caught up on something)
> - reliable
> - not pick up extremely loud noise from nearby waterfall (throat
> pickup mic)
> - leave hands free for rope and stretcher handling (press-to-talk on
> finger operated by thumb)
> - receive volume loud enough, but earphones do not block local sound
> from ears.
>
> Can anyone suggest any -
> - existing users,
> - suppliers of equipment
> - discussion groups interested in this

>
> Thanks
>
> Mike
> Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue
>
>
> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>

649. RE: [SAR_APRS] Rescue operator headset for extreme environments

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-01 21:12:18 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 647 Message: 649

I like the OTTO Breeze series.

http://www.ottoexcellence.com/comm/ltheadset_home.html

Our ATV team uses these. They work well in conjunction with a helmet and seem to have good noise cancelling characteristics. In motion on a quad you don't hear much background noise. You can buy them with an in-line push to talk as well as a detachable PTT. I also use them when on ground team assignments.

Mike

Solano County SAR/ATV

California Wing CAP

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Mike R
Sent: Saturday, November 01, 2008 2:14 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Rescue operator headset for extreme environments

We are trying to equip Canyon Rescue Teams with "headsets" that will work in a canyon, so we need -

- waterproof
- lightweight
- rugged (not easily damaged)
- safe (will not endanger operator - e.g. not block hearing, least chance of wires getting caught up on something)
- reliable
- not pick up extremely loud noise from nearby waterfall (throat pickup mic)
- leave hands free for rope and stretcher handling (press-to-talk on finger operated by thumb)
- receive volume loud enough, but earphones do not block local sound from ears.

Can anyone suggest any -
- existing users,
- suppliers of equipment
- discussion groups interested in this

Thanks

Mike
Bushwalkers Wilderness Rescue

650. Re: SAR mapping integration

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-06 23:29:30 UTC
From: ssobods
Topic: 627 Message: 650

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Mykle Raymond <n7jzt@...> wrote:
>
> Scott Miller wrote:
> > Another question for my presentation... I'm doing a slide on APRS
> > limitations and shortcomings in relation to SAR. In my mind, one
of the
> > biggest is lack of integration with whatever mapping software a
team may
> > already be using.
>
> We are using OziExplorer to display topo maps, and UI-View to
handle
> the APRS side (displaying wide-area maps). Darryl Smiths OziAPRS
> provides the interface between the two, displaying APRS waypoints
on
> the topo map. And, using a T2-135, of course ;-)
>
> The advantage of OziExplorer is the ability to display any image
that
> can be georeferenced. So, that includes maps that we may create
> independently, perhaps having removed trails (poor quality) and
> add trails that we have mapped. It also includes maps that we may
> scan, like a popular trail map.
>
> Commercial USGS topo map display programs are limited to their
maps.
> On the other hand, these programs provide seamless map displays.
>
> Running these three programs works on a Win98se laptop.
>
> Since I now have a better laptop, I will frequently use
GlobalMapper
> to display a variety of data layers, with 3D views available.
>
> Looking forward to more alternatives to TH-D7a(g) trackers.
>
> 73 de Mykle N7JZT
>
Well the new/yet to be shipped Yaesu VX-8R with APRS should be an
interesting alternative to the Kenwood D7.

651. Yaesu VX-8R APRS handheld

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-06 23:32:54 UTC
From: ssobods
Topic: 651 Message: 651

Anyone talk with Yaesu about this radio to see what the supported APRS features are?

http://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=111&encProdID=64C913CDBC183621AAA39980149EA8C6&DivisionID=65&isArchived=0

652. Tickets CAD - New Version - 2.9 A beta - Available for Download

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-11 19:08:16 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 598 Message: 652

It's at SourceForge at

https://sourceforge.net/project/showfiles.php?group_id=145201

In addition to the capabilities that the basic 2.9 introduced, this version has some useful upgrades - especially in Response Unit handling and Call Board operation - and important fixes as follows.

a. Fixed certain failures occurring during the install process for some users.
b. Users employing the 'database prefix' option could encounter failures during initial operation.
c. Users with MS's Internet Explorer browser could see errors reported in the 'route selection' process.
d. The Zoom mini-map function is more reliable now.

This is a total install. Users with OK installations of basic Version 2.9 who want to keep their existing data please contact me.

There's a kick-the-tires installation with a guest login at http://www.saefern.org/tickets/

There's a Tickets-specific discussion grp at http://groups.google.com/group/open-source-cad

Admittedly, it's not for everyone. But if you can use a multi-user CAD package that you can tailor to your team's needs and have like a zero budget for it, I'm not aware of anything like it.

FYI, I'm looking hard at how to adapt the package for non-Internet operation. If this sounds interesting, contact me re this.

Arnie Shore
Annapolis, MD

653. RE: [SAR_APRS] Yaesu VX-8R APRS handheld

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-12 00:12:54 UTC
From: Jeffs lists
Topic: 651 Message: 653

Haven't, but I'm waiting for mine to come in J

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ssobods
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2008 6:33 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Yaesu VX-8R APRS handheld

Anyone talk with Yaesu about this radio to see what the supported APRS features are?

http://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=111&encProdID=64C913CDBC183621AAA39980149EA8C6&DivisionID=65&isArchived=0

654. Kenwood RC-710

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-12 01:05:10 UTC
From: Jim Godward
Topic: 654 Message: 654

Has anyone added a Kenwood RC-710 and interface kit to a TM-V7A, 732, 733A, etc for APRS?

Jim
James Godward
Belgrade, MT
~
~
~
----- Original Message -----
From: Jeffs lists
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Tuesday, November 11, 2008 5:12 PM
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Yaesu VX-8R APRS handheld

Haven't, but I'm waiting for mine to come in J

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of ssobods
Sent: Thursday, November 06, 2008 6:33 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Yaesu VX-8R APRS handheld

Anyone talk with Yaesu about this radio to see what the supported APRS
features are?

http://www.yaesu.com/indexVS.cfm?
cmd=DisplayProducts&ProdCatID=111&encProdID=64C913CDBC183621AAA39980149
EA8C6&DivisionID=65&isArchived=0

655. RE: [SAR_APRS] Kenwood RC-710

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-12 14:42:33 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 654 Message: 655

> Has anyone added a Kenwood RC-710 and
> interface kit to a
> TM-V7A, 732, 733A, etc for APRS?

No, but I have added it to an $88 Alinco HT:

See www.aprs.org/D710-HT.html

Makes a great stand-alone APRS portable system.!
Combined with a good GPS map, its an all-in-one APRS system.

Bob, Wb4APR

656. FC-301/D in a backpack?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-23 20:38:05 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 656 Message: 656

Double post to the Tracker2 and SAR_APRS lists:

Once the Tracker2 module is available for the FC-301/D transceiver I will be interested in using it in a backpack for search and rescue. Does anyone have any ideas for packaging the unit with a battery and appropriate antenna for backpack operation? It will need to be compact, light, durable, and run for at least 12 hours (ideally about 36 hours). I'd like it all in a small package like an HT. The GPS will be the Garmin eTrex units we already own.

Tom KD7LXL

657. Re: [tracker2] FC-301/D in a backpack?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-24 05:40:50 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 656 Message: 657

I've got a few ideas, actually. I picked up likely-looking cases from Pelican, Otter, S3, and Underwater Kinetics to try out. UK and Pelican both have a case that will fit the FC-301/D and an 8xAA or 5400 mAh Li-ion pack comfortably. It's a little more clunky than an HT, but it's rugged and waterproof. I'm still working on mass-production details, in particular how to set up the antenna and an 'on' switch.

For my SARCity demo I used a Molle pack radio pouch. I could have gotten by with a small HT pouch, but the Molle pouch worked pretty well. It's not waterproof (though it would help keep the rain off) but it's lightweight and compact - no larger than a TH-D7A in the same case.

Scott

Tom Hayward wrote:
>
>
> Double post to the Tracker2 and SAR_APRS lists:
>
> Once the Tracker2 module is available for the FC-301/D transceiver I
> will be interested in using it in a backpack for search and rescue.
> Does anyone have any ideas for packaging the unit with a battery and
> appropriate antenna for backpack operation? It will need to be
> compact, light, durable, and run for at least 12 hours (ideally about
> 36 hours). I'd like it all in a small package like an HT. The GPS will
> be the Garmin eTrex units we already own.
>
> Tom KD7LXL

658. Update on the Micro-Trak TT4 (MT-TT4)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-11-25 00:12:42 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 658 Message: 658

It looks like we are dangerously close to having the MT-TT4 ready to ship, about mid-December. We will initally release the unit as a fully assembled and tested PC board, but we are working on a custom enclosure which can be added later. The device will feature a special version of the TT4-D software and measures 3.1 X 3.175 I am confident that this will appeal to many SAR users looking for a small portable stand-alone digipeater. There is a PS/2 connector for a PC style keyboard,(not yet supported in firmware) an RJ-45 output for a remote LCD display, and of course an RJ-45 for telemetry inputs. This is a 1/2 Watt transceiver, and can do tracking, digipeating, KISS or pretty much anything a regular TT4 can do. We expect to develop an amplifier similar to our Micro-Amp for this unit in the very near future.

Allen R. Lord
VHS/Byonics
KG6HXO

659. New E-mail Address

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-12-11 20:47:33 UTC
From: Arnie Shore
Topic: 659 Message: 659

Folks, sorry for the bother but I've just moved e-mail-wise: It's now

ashore3@...

AS

660. Re: [SAR_APRS] New E-mail Address

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-12-11 20:55:03 UTC
From: Rick Joslin
Topic: 659 Message: 660

You'll need to click the link below that says:
To change settings online go to

Login and make the appropriate changes.

----- Original Message -----
From: "Arnie Shore" <3ashore@...>
To: <911console@yahoogroups.com>; <911Lifeline@yahoogroups.com>; "Al Hauch"
<golferal@...>; "Barney Metzner" <bmetzner@...>;
"Benjamin" <bman22@...>; "Bernie and Dotty Cohen" <CocoonBD@...>;
"Bernie Silverstein" <cynbern@...>; "Beth Berry"
<bethsail@...>; "Bob Austin" <mandolinpicker@...>; "Buz
Inman" <einman6@...>; "Carol Manion" <carolmanion@...>;
"Carol Mosher" <themoads@...>; "Cathy Welker"
<fdwelk00@...>; "Cheryl and Colin McNaught"
<cmcnaught@...>; "Colin McNaught" <cmcnaught@...>; "Dave
Sullivan" <dave@...>; "Dawn Poley" <educationdir@...>; "Dick
Cramer" <r.cramer@...>; "Dick Malmgren" <dickmalmgren@...>;
<Dispatch@yahoogroups.com>; "Dr Salob" <sportsdent@...>; "Drenning,
Pat" <Drenning@...>; "Dunaway, Michael (Noesis)"
<DUNAWAM@...>; "Dunaway, Michael (Noesis)"
<mike.dunaway.ctr@...>; "Ed Sherlock" <eps@...>;
<eslaff@...>; <fj2carr@...>; "George Bean" <gbean@...>;
"George Hughes" <ghughes@...>; "Grammas, George N."
<GGrammas@...>; <Harnsdd@...>; "Harry Contos"
<harry_contos@...>; "Herb Estrada" <herbestrada@...>;
<illinoisdigitalham@yahoogroups.com>; "ira rifkin" <ira.rifkin@...>;
"Itzkowitz, Phil" <PHIL.ITZKOWITZ@...>; "Jeff Garvas" <jeff@...>;
"jeremy" <jdog20@...>; "Jim Sargent" <jim.sargent@...>; "John
Ellison" <john@...>; "John Ellison" <john_e911@...>; "John
Williams" <duke107@...>; "John Williams" <duke107@...>;
"John Wright" <jwright14@...>; "Judy Planzer" <jhpcpa@...>;
"Julie Kinkel" <jkinkel@...>; "KA Office"
<Office@...>; "Karl Heissner" <khh0725@...>; "Kol
Ami" <office@...>; "Lee Kolinsky" <lee@...>; "Lindy"
<shore@...>; "Lobe, Bernard" <bernlobe10@...>; "Marietta
Schreiber" <hilltop520@...>; "Martin Bernstein"
<moisheh@...>; "Mary Murphy" <mmu444@...>; "MaryAnn"
<mashore@...>; "MaryAnn Shore" <shore.ma@...>; "Michael
Dunaway" <wmdunaway@...>; <moishe@...>; <PhunyPhase@...>;
"PLSalatti" <gravitywell99@...>; "R Cramer" <r.cramer@...>;
"Reid, Jerry" <Jerry.Reid@...>; "Rob Muir"
<robertmmuir@...>; "Robert G Towers" <rgtsbs@...>; "Robert
Heller, KA" <rheller_42@...>; <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>;
<sarcomm@yahoogroups.com>; "Shirley Robin" <SRobin229@...>; "Shirley

Robin" <SRobin229@...>; "Shirley Vining" <ShirleyVining@...>;
"Talbot Brooks" <tbrooks@...>; "T.J. Powell" <tjp@...>; "T.J.
Powell" <tpowell@...>; <Tgdefine@...>; <Theambergroup@...>;
<TheEmergencyDispatcher@yahoogroups.com>; "Tom Boddorff" <tom@...>;
"Tom Hanrahan" <thssyc@...>; "Tom Hanrahan" <tom@...>; "Tom
Riggins, AAEOC" <triggins@...>; "WAYNE RICHARDSON"
<wayneandkimiko@...>; "'Westenburger, Sue'" <westen5@...>;
<fitzgeraldpat@...>; <Michael.Dunaway@...>
Sent: Thursday, December 11, 2008 12:47 PM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] New E-mail Address

> Folks, sorry for the bother but I've just moved e-mail-wise: It's now
>
> ashore3@...
>
> AS
>
> ---
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

661. Micro-Trak TT4

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-12-14 01:47:26 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 607 Message: 661

The Micro-Trak TT4 is out and available on the Byonics website. http://www.byonics.com/microtrak/mt-tt4.php Initially, we are offering it as an assembled and tested board, with custom cases avaiable in the next few weeks. it weighs less than 3 ounces, measures about 3 X 3 inches, and will operate as a tracker, digipeater, etc. Let me know what you think.

Allen
VHS

662. Frequency questions

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-12-14 20:52:12 UTC
From: Craig Anderson
Topic: 662 Message: 662

Hi all,
I have a question for everyone on the appropriate frequencies to use. I'm with the San Jose RACES group and we have had a packet frequency that we have used for many years: 145.050MHz. We have expanded our use of this with a BBS, TCP/IP, and APRS over this frequency. We would like to use another frequency or two, another 2M frequency and a 440 frequency to be used in a similar manner. Do you all have recommendations or suggestions of what frequencies to use?

I was thinking of using 145.090 for another 2M frequency and maybe 433.45MHZ. I haven't decided whether our 440 use would be 1200 baud or 9600 or a mix of both. Most likely 1200 baud.

<donning flame suit :->

I look forward to your input and assistance.

Thanks very much all,
Craig Anderson, n6yxk
Digital Radio Manager, San Jose RACES

663. 12-14-2008 update on Palmdale ham radio ban

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-12-15 18:59:27 UTC
From: D.G.
Topic: 662 Message: 663

12-14-2008 update on Palmdale ham radio ban

http://www.youtube.com/user/n9faa

N9FAA

664. Micro-Trak TT4 and amplifiers

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2008-12-18 00:45:44 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 664 Message: 664

Just a quick word, I understand that a few people have ordered the Micro-Trak TT4 with the Micro-Amp. The Micro-Amp is uni-directional, and will not let you receive signals back thorough it. Also,the MT-TT4 can have up to 625 Milliwatts of output power, which is WAY too much to drive the Micro-Amp with. You would need to use an inline attenuator to use it as a transmit-only device. We will be releasing a 10 Watt switched amplifier that wil be suitable for use with 1/2 Watt transceivers, but the Micro-Amp is not a good choice for the moment.

73,

Allen
VHS

665. [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-13 22:04:40 UTC
From: c0j
Topic: 665 Message: 665

Hi,

Hi Apologies for being off topic. I looked through the list of lists I'm on, and reckoned that
this group may have the best cross section of people that could furnish an answer.

We're trying to standardise on a format for use in our group. I was wondering what other groups use when putting pen to paper?

Reply directly please in order to keep it off the list.

In a pathetic attempt to get back on topic. Has anyone had a VX-8R for a shakedown yet?

Regards
de John
EI7IG

666. Re: [SAR_APRS] [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-13 23:01:36 UTC
From: Bob Bruninga
Topic: 665 Message: 666

> I reckoned that this group may
> have the best cross section of
> people that could furnish an answer.

If the question is the SUBJECT line, then I receommend the military's DATE/TIME/GROUP format for use in text and emails

"DDHHMMz"
where DD is day, HH is hour and MM is minute. and where "z" means "zulu" or UTC. If the month is importnat then you can say "June DDHHMMz"

Bob, Wb4APR

>We're trying to standardise on a format for use in our group. I was wondering what other
>groups use when putting pen to paper?
>
>Reply directly please in order to keep it off the list.
>
>In a pathetic attempt to get back on topic. Has anyone had a VX-8R for a shakedown yet?
>
>Regards
>de John
>EI7IG
>
>
>------------------------------------
>
>Yahoo! Groups Links
>
>
>

667. Re: [SAR_APRS] [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-14 17:34:55 UTC
From: Andy
Topic: 665 Message: 667

> If the month is importnat then you can say "June DDHHMMz"

FYI, techincally I believe the full Date/Time Group has the month and year coming AFTER the day/time:

DDHHMMZ Month YY

as in "150315Z JAN 09" for 10:15pm EST today (some use it without the spaces around the month). But everyone needs to be familiar with this format for it to work.

And if you do use Zulu, it's important to get the day right.

Personally, for things I do myself, I prefer the MSB-LSB or most-significant-to-least-significant ordering:

2009.01.14 22:15 EST or
2009.01.15 03:15 Z

rather than our crazed mixed up orderings in common usage.

Just my 'umble opinion...

Andy

668. RE: [SAR_APRS] [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-14 18:34:07 UTC
From: Daniel Nye
Topic: 665 Message: 668

In MARS,

060014Z JAN 2009

We use the first 4 digits are the time 0600zulu, the 14 is the date 14 Jan 2009.

Dan DCSAR

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Andy
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 10:35 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

> If the month is importnat then you can say "June DDHHMMz"

FYI, techincally I believe the full Date/Time Group has the month and year coming AFTER the day/time:

DDHHMMZ Month YY

as in "150315Z JAN 09" for 10:15pm EST today (some use it without the spaces around the month). But everyone needs to be familiar with this format for it to work.

And if you do use Zulu, it's important to get the day right.

Personally, for things I do myself, I prefer the MSB-LSB or most-significant-to-least-significant ordering:

2009.01.14 22:15 EST or
2009.01.15 03:15 Z

rather than our crazed mixed up orderings in common usage.

Just my 'umble opinion...

Andy

669. Re: [SAR_APRS] [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-14 20:19:05 UTC
From: Tapio Sokura
Topic: 665 Message: 669

c0j wrote:
> We're trying to standardise on a format for use in our group. I was wondering what other
> groups use when putting pen to paper?

I don't have a specific format to recommend, but a couple of pointers:
1) Times always in 24h format (00:00 - 23:59, with or without the colon).
2) Avoid a/b/yy(yy) format for dates, you never know for sure whether a
or b is day or month.
3) If you always operate within one timezone, always using local time is
sensible. Mixing local time and UTC is prone to errors, stick to either
one. If necessary you could include the timezone specifier.
4) Don't try to be too creative and invent a format that's too special
or ambiguous. Ideally the format is self-evident to any reader.

Tapio

670. RE: [SAR_APRS] [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-15 00:21:44 UTC
From: Mike Heil
Topic: 665 Message: 670

The format normally used is:

DDHHMMZ Month YY

As in: 150019Z Jan 09 (15 January 2009 0019Z)

Mike

K6MAH

Yosemite 4

AFA9MH

Etc.

_____

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Andy
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 9:35 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

> If the month is importnat then you can say "June DDHHMMz"

FYI, techincally I believe the full Date/Time Group has the month and year coming AFTER the day/time:

DDHHMMZ Month YY

as in "150315Z JAN 09" for 10:15pm EST today (some use it without the spaces around the month). But everyone needs to be familiar with this format for it to work.

And if you do use Zulu, it's important to get the day right.

Personally, for things I do myself, I prefer the MSB-LSB or most-significant-to-least-significant ordering:

2009.01.14 22:15 EST or
2009.01.15 03:15 Z

rather than our crazed mixed up orderings in common usage.

Just my 'umble opinion...

Andy

671. Re: [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-15 09:55:14 UTC
From: g3zhx
Topic: 665 Message: 671

I would strongly recommend ISO 8601 (see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_8601 for an exposition). My personal preference is the YYYYMMMDD HHMMSS variant, so now would be 2009JAN15 095200. As you are probably aware, there are at least three common sequences for all numeric dates making 080103 highly ambiguous!

The second advantage of using the standard is that dates become sortable on computers using the normal ASCII alphanumeric sequence.

73s
Ian G3ZHX

672. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-16 23:10:21 UTC
From: Jon
Topic: 665 Message: 672

HI all,

Many thanks for the replies. I think ISO8601 is probably the best candidate. Many thanks for everyones input.

Regards
de John
EI7IG

----- Original Message ----
From: g3zhx <isomer@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Thursday, 15 January, 2009 9:55:14
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

I would strongly recommend ISO 8601 (see
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_8601 for an exposition). My personal
preference is the YYYYMMMDD HHMMSS variant, so now would be 2009JAN15
095200. As you are probably aware, there are at least three common
sequences for all numeric dates making 080103 highly ambiguous!

The second advantage of using the standard is that dates become
sortable on computers using the normal ASCII alphanumeric sequence.

73s
Ian G3ZHX

Yahoo! Groups Links

673. Re: [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-18 23:43:10 UTC
From: petesguide
Topic: 665 Message: 673

I agree that ISO 8601 is the best format, but YYYYMMMDD is not part of this standard. ISO 8601 uses only digits for the month.

Try one of these ISO 8601 flavors:
2009-01-18 23:37Z (space separating date and time)
2009-01-18T23:37Z (Letter T separating date and time)

In my experience, if you see a date presented as 2009-01-18, it is always using the year, month, day order.

I'd do what the international standard says, since it's the only one documented in a place that can be named and referenced. All the others are by national common usage only.

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Jon <c0j_1999@...> wrote:
>
> HI all,
>
> Many thanks for the replies. I think ISO8601 is probably the best candidate. Many thanks for everyones input.
>
> Regards
> de John
> EI7IG
>
>
> ----- Original Message ----
> From: g3zhx <isomer@...>
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Thursday, 15 January, 2009 9:55:14
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.
>
> I would strongly recommend ISO 8601 (see
> http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_8601 for an exposition). My personal
> preference is the YYYYMMMDD HHMMSS variant, so now would be 2009JAN15
> 095200. As you are probably aware, there are at least three common
> sequences for all numeric dates making 080103 highly ambiguous!
>
> The second advantage of using the standard is that dates become
> sortable on computers using the normal ASCII alphanumeric sequence.
>
> 73s
> Ian G3ZHX
>
>
>

> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>

674. Re: [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-19 08:43:33 UTC
From: g3zhx
Topic: 665 Message: 674

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "petesguide" <editor@...> wrote:
>
> I agree that ISO 8601 is the best format, but YYYYMMMDD is not part of
> this standard. ISO 8601 uses only digits for the month.

Yes, of course. In fact, using MMM prevents correct sorting. I
should have said that I use YYYYMMMDD informally.

Ian G3ZHX

675. Re: [SAR_APRS] [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-20 23:46:29 UTC
From: Andy
Topic: 665 Message: 675

> In MARS,
>
> 060014Z JAN 2009
>
> We use the first 4 digits are the time 0600zulu, the 14 is the date 14 Jan
> 2009.

That's actually disturbing, because the Pentagon and Navy MARS would interpret your example as 0014 UTC on 06 Jan 2009, more than one week earlier.

(http://www.js.pentagon.mil/doctrine/jel/doddict/natoterm/d/00379.html):

date-time group
(NATO) A group of six digits with a zone time suffix and the standardized abbreviation for the month. The first pair of digits represents the day; the second pair the hour; the third pair the minutes. After the month may be added the last two digits of the year.

MARS instructions say:

Date-Time-Group - The date-time-group is expressed as six
digits and a zone suffix, followed by the abbreviation of the
month and the four digits of the year. The first two digits
denote the day of the month; the second pair of digits denotes the
hour; and the third pair of digits denotes the minutes.

676. Re: [SAR_APRS] [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-21 00:15:50 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 665 Message: 676

On Tue, 20 Jan 2009, Andy wrote:

> That's actually disturbing, because the Pentagon and Navy MARS would interpret
> your example as 0014 UTC on 06 Jan 2009, more than one week earlier.
>
> (http://www.js.pentagon.mil/doctrine/jel/doddict/natoterm/d/00379.html):
>
> date-time group
> (NATO) A group of six digits with a zone time suffix and the standardized
> abbreviation for the month. The first pair of digits represents the day; the
> second pair the hour; the third pair the minutes. After the month may be
> added the last two digits of the year.
>
> MARS instructions say:
>
> Date-Time-Group - The date-time-group is expressed as six
> digits and a zone suffix, followed by the abbreviation of the
> month and the four digits of the year. The first two digits
> denote the day of the month; the second pair of digits denotes the
> hour; and the third pair of digits denotes the minutes.

We've already gotten into trouble with 2-digit years but apparently
specs haven't changed. I spent a bunch of months looking through
source code fixing 2-digit years and would rather not repeat it.

Interroperability rules tell us to use plain language instead of
10-codes or Q-codes or other in our radio transmissions.

So why don't we use plain language dates and 4-digit years so that
there's no misunderstanding?

"Jan 01 2009" or "2009 jan 01" are hard to misinterpret no matter
what order you rearrange. Computer programs and log sheets can be
re-done to handle the slightly longer format.

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

677. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: [Offtopic] Date/Time formats.

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-21 00:21:11 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 665 Message: 677

On Sun, 18 Jan 2009, petesguide wrote:

> I agree that ISO 8601 is the best format, but YYYYMMMDD is not part of
> this standard. ISO 8601 uses only digits for the month.
>
> Try one of these ISO 8601 flavors:
> 2009-01-18 23:37Z (space separating date and time)
> 2009-01-18T23:37Z (Letter T separating date and time)
>
> In my experience, if you see a date presented as 2009-01-18, it is
> always using the year, month, day order.
>
> I'd do what the international standard says, since it's the only one
> documented in a place that can be named and referenced. All the others
> are by national common usage only.

Easy to read, computer sortable by date/time with no extra coding
effort, Most significant digit to least significant digit order.
Yea!

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

678. Settings

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-27 23:36:10 UTC
From: Ron H.
Topic: 678 Message: 678

For just seeing the (AIO or other)tracker data direct to the base what is the best settings,(such as wide or what ever) anyone have what they use with success?? Distance in air miles might be 2-3 miles, open area.

679. Re: Settings

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-27 23:43:29 UTC
From: k7rkt
Topic: 678 Message: 679

Hi Ron,

you don't need any path at all. That's how I run my trackers when I
fly them in rockets and balloons.

Greg K7RKT
http://www.bigredbee.com

680. Re: Settings

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-01-27 23:46:30 UTC
From: Ron H.
Topic: 678 Message: 680

So saying, just leave that data field empty, nothing, just to fully
understand.
--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "k7rkt" <k7rkt@...> wrote:
>
> Hi Ron,
>
> you don't need any path at all. That's how I run my trackers when I
> fly them in rockets and balloons.
>
> Greg K7RKT
> http://www.bigredbee.com
>

681. T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-02-02 20:07:51 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 681 Message: 681

I've been working on my Tracker2 SAR package again:

http://n1vg.net/images/sar_tracker.jpg

It includes a 5-watt transceiver with integrated Tracker2 (tracker/digipeater/etc), a SiRFstar III GPS receiver with patch antenna, and an 8xAA battery pack. The whole thing is surrounded by about 1/4" of rubber padding on the inside, and when you close the latch it forms a snug fit that keeps everything in place with a good deal of shock resistance. With some RTV around the base of the antenna, it should be submersible.

The pictured unit is mostly a mock-up at the moment, though. All of those pieces are there, but (aside from the T2 and radio) nothing's connected. That antenna is a perfect fit, but it happens to have an SMA connector and not the BNC it needs. The GPS receiver is just dropped in to test the fit.

When I'm done, there should be a small control panel with a power LED, on/off/configuration switch, and a programming/external GPS jack. I'm still working on how that's going to be laid out.

I wish the loops were on the sides, to make it easier to strap to a pack with webbing, but I'm sure I can still work out some kind of mounting system.

Scott
N1VG

682. Re: [SAR_APRS] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-02-02 20:48:37 UTC
From: Adam Sherman
Topic: 681 Message: 682

First, I love it. Good work.

On 2-Feb-09, at 15:07 , Scott Miller wrote:
> I wish the loops were on the sides, to make it easier to strap to a
> pack
> with webbing, but I'm sure I can still work out some kind of mounting
> system.

I can visualize a single piece of seat-belf webbing that would loop through the two end loops via the bottom of the unit and over the compression straps on your average alpine-style pack. A bit of velcro and voila.

I like it!

A.

--
Adam Sherman
Logistics Director - Directeur de la logistique, SG1
+1 (613) 797-6819

683. Re: [SAR_APRS] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-02-02 21:20:05 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 681 Message: 683

Scott,

This is most excellent!

Is the GPS antenna oriented properly with the antenna vertical?
Educating users how to carry their GPS to record good tracks is
a similar issue (it's a sore point, if you can't tell).

The first point where I would want alternatives: the antenna system.
A rubber duckie is optimized for convenience, and performance is
important but secondary. The one you are likely to use on the
T2 Tracker will probably be significantly better than stock HT
antennas. Given the application, alternative antennas that have
even better performance will be of major interest.

The stock TH-D7A(g) rubber duck is not suitable for remote area
tracking, so we use something like the Comet SMA-24 (the BNC-24
is available). It is robust enough to survive brush. One
user who thought it should be carried in a front-radio-pack
tied the antenna in a loose knot to keep it out of his face,
and it survived (the user was re-educated to carry the tracker
inside his pack).

I have thought of having an externally mounted antenna, so locating
the tracker would have more options. Something like an arrow shaft,
carried in the pack with the top just sticking above, with an
antenna mount (assuming the antenna does not require the radio or
tracker to be part of the antenna system). Of course, the location
of the tracker box must allow for GPS reception, unless you design
a combined radio and gps antenna!

Also, an external antenna will reduce stress on the antenna connection
in the box.

First things first, however. I'm sure there will be a lot of interest
in your basic model!

Mykle N7JZT
Tucson AZ SAR

Scott Miller wrote:
>
> I've been working on my Tracker2 SAR package again:
>
> http://n1vg.net/images/sar_tracker.jpg
>
> It includes a 5-watt transceiver with integrated Tracker2

> (tracker/digipeater/etc), a SiRFstar III GPS receiver with patch
> antenna, and an 8xAA battery pack. The whole thing is surrounded by
> about 1/4" of rubber padding on the inside, and when you close the latch
> it forms a snug fit that keeps everything in place with a good deal of
> shock resistance. With some RTV around the base of the antenna, it
> should be submersible.
>
> The pictured unit is mostly a mock-up at the moment, though. All of
> those pieces are there, but (aside from the T2 and radio) nothing's
> connected. That antenna is a perfect fit, but it happens to have an SMA
> connector and not the BNC it needs. The GPS receiver is just dropped in
> to test the fit.
>
> When I'm done, there should be a small control panel with a power LED,
> on/off/configuration switch, and a programming/external GPS jack. I'm
> still working on how that's going to be laid out.
>
> I wish the loops were on the sides, to make it easier to strap to a pack
> with webbing, but I'm sure I can still work out some kind of mounting
> system.
>
> Scott
> N1VG

684. Re: [tracker2] Re: [SAR_APRS] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-02-02 21:36:00 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 681 Message: 684

> Is the GPS antenna oriented properly with the antenna vertical?
> Educating users how to carry their GPS to record good tracks is
> a similar issue (it's a sore point, if you can't tell).
>>
> tracker to be part of the antenna system). Of course, the location
> of the tracker box must allow for GPS reception, unless you design
> a combined radio and gps antenna!

I don't think this will be an issue with the SiRFstar III GPS receiver Scott has picked for this device. I've never succeeding in getting this GPS to lose signal during normal operation (on the floor of my car, in the basement, under trees--doesn't seem to phase it).

Nothing like the old yellow eTrex units that have to see the sky to get a signal!

Tom KD7LXL

685. Re: [SAR_APRS] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-02-02 21:36:35 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 681 Message: 685

> Is the GPS antenna oriented properly with the antenna vertical?
> Educating users how to carry their GPS to record good tracks is
> a similar issue (it's a sore point, if you can't tell).

It's just crammed in there right now, but it does fit with the patch antenna in the right orientation. Might take some tweaking when I add a control panel, the way I'm imagining it.

> A rubber duckie is optimized for convenience, and performance is
> important but secondary. The one you are likely to use on the
> T2 Tracker will probably be significantly better than stock HT
> antennas. Given the application, alternative antennas that have
> even better performance will be of major interest.

I'm going to try to find a decent rubber duck for the basic model. There's an internal BNC, so you could run coax in through the hole (a different grommet option should help maintain a good seal), and while it's not as convenient as a bulkhead BNC it'd avoid some loss and keep the cost down.

> Also, an external antenna will reduce stress on the antenna connection
> in the box.

That shouldn't be a big problem. In my test setup, I tried it with both a bare hole in the case and with a rubber grommet. Most of the load is transfered to the case at the base of the antenna, and NOT the connector, and the BNC is mounted to the metal radio case, which is held in the outer box by rubber, so very little stress should ever be carried to the connection. I don't think I could do more to it by hand than just bend up the antenna.

Scott
N1VG

686. Is there a replacement for DMApper

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-02-20 14:29:29 UTC
From: Ray
Topic: 686 Message: 686

Morning all we are in the process of upgrading our computers and software and just noticed that dmapper does not support Vista at this time, is there a alternative to this application? If all else fails I will just spend the extra money for XP.

Thanks Ray

687. Re: Is there a replacement for DMApper

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-02-20 14:47:00 UTC
From: Ron H.
Topic: 686 Message: 687

Can you contact me direct, as I would need the Software Title
for "dmapper", then I can see if there is a work around this problem,
but would suspect that as VISTA does not support some other map
applications then you would need to use WinXP pro v. But you should be
able to find XP for about $100.00.
--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Ray" <shad1_65026@...> wrote:
>
> Morning all we are in the process of upgrading our computers and
> software and just noticed that dmapper does not support Vista at this
> time, is there a alternative to this application? If all else fails I
> will just spend the extra money for XP.
>
> Thanks Ray
>

688. Re: [SAR_APRS] Is there a replacement for DMApper

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-02-21 15:39:56 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 686 Message: 688

On Fri, 20 Feb 2009, Ray wrote:

> Morning all we are in the process of upgrading our computers and
> software and just noticed that dmapper does not support Vista at this
> time, is there a alternative to this application? If all else fails I
> will just spend the extra money for XP.

Send an e-mail to the author to see if he has an update that will
work on Vista.

Depending on what you're wanting to do there may be alternatives.
If you're having it send positions to commercial mapping programs
then it's the best solution for that particular niche.

If you want a program that can do it all directly (APRS and mapping)
and can get by without using a commercial mapping program, I suggest
Xastir/Linux inside VMWare Player if you have to stick with Windows,
or Xastir natively on Linux if not.

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

689. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Is there a replacement for DMApper

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-02-21 15:41:44 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 686 Message: 689

On Fri, 20 Feb 2009, Ron H. wrote:

> Can you contact me direct, as I would need the Software Title
> for "dmapper", then I can see if there is a work around this problem,
> but would suspect that as VISTA does not support some other map
> applications then you would need to use WinXP pro v. But you should be
> able to find XP for about $100.00.

http://info.aprs.net/index.php?title=Software

Under the "APRS related X.25 Software" category.

--
Curt, WE7U. archer at eskimo dot com
http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

690. Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-22 13:45:07 UTC
From: Kevin Ratcliff
Topic: 681 Message: 690

Scott,

It's been a while since I've heard an update about your SAR tracker package project. My SAR team is currently looking into APRS options again after a failed attempt to use a commercial proprietary GPS speaker-mic system for tracking.

Any additional information you can provide about estimated pricing and timeframe for availability would be helpful to us. If you don't have this info ready yet that's totally understandable, just let me know. I understand that you have a lot of projects going on at once!

Thanks!

Kevin
KB9MQU

On Mon, Feb 2, 2009 at 4:07 PM, Scott Miller <scott@opentrac.org> wrote:
> I've been working on my Tracker2 SAR package again:
>
> http://n1vg.net/images/sar_tracker.jpg
>
> It includes a 5-watt transceiver with integrated Tracker2
> (tracker/digipeater/etc), a SiRFstar III GPS receiver with patch
> antenna, and an 8xAA battery pack. The whole thing is surrounded by
> about 1/4" of rubber padding on the inside, and when you close the latch
> it forms a snug fit that keeps everything in place with a good deal of
> shock resistance. With some RTV around the base of the antenna, it
> should be submersible.
>
> The pictured unit is mostly a mock-up at the moment, though. All of
> those pieces are there, but (aside from the T2 and radio) nothing's
> connected. That antenna is a perfect fit, but it happens to have an SMA
> connector and not the BNC it needs. The GPS receiver is just dropped in
> to test the fit.
>
> When I'm done, there should be a small control panel with a power LED,
> on/off/configuration switch, and a programming/external GPS jack. I'm
> still working on how that's going to be laid out.
>
> I wish the loops were on the sides, to make it easier to strap to a pack
> with webbing, but I'm sure I can still work out some kind of mounting
> system.
>
> Scott
> N1VG

691. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-22 14:56:01 UTC
From: CaptALord
Topic: 681 Message: 691

Kevin,

Would you share your experiences with the speaker Mic system?

Allen
VHS
AF60F

In a message dated 04/22/09 06:46:28 Pacific Daylight Time, kevin@... writes:

Scott,

It's been a while since I've heard an update about your SAR tracker
package project. My SAR team is currently looking into APRS options
again after a failed attempt to use a commercial proprietary GPS
speaker-mic system for tracking.

Any additional information you can provide about estimated pricing and
timeframe for availability would be helpful to us. If you don't have
this info ready yet that's totally understandable, just let me know. I
understand that you have a lot of projects going on at once!

Thanks!

Kevin
KB9MQU

On Mon, Feb 2, 2009 at 4:07 PM, Scott Miller <scott@...> wrote:
> I've been working on my Tracker2 SAR package again:
>
> http://n1vg.net/images/sar_tracker.jpg
>
> It includes a 5-watt transceiver with integrated Tracker2
> (tracker/digipeater/etc), a SiRFstar III GPS receiver with patch
> antenna, and an 8xAA battery pack. The whole thing is surrounded by
> about 1/4" of rubber padding on the inside, and when you close the latch
> it forms a snug fit that keeps everything in place with a good deal of
> shock resistance. With some RTV around the base of the antenna, it
> should be submersible.
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> The pictured unit is mostly a mock-up at the moment, though. All of
> those pieces are there, but (aside from the T2 and radio) nothing's
> connected. That antenna is a perfect fit, but it happens to have an SMA
> connector and not the BNC it needs. The GPS receiver is just dropped in
> to test the fit.
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> When I'm done, there should be a small control panel with a power LED,

> on/off/configuration switch, and a programming/external GPS jack. I'm
> still working on how that's going to be laid out.
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> I wish the loops were on the sides, to make it easier to strap to a pack
> with webbing, but I'm sure I can still work out some kind of mounting
> system.
>
> Scott
> N1VG

692. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-22 15:25:47 UTC
From: Kevin Ratcliff
Topic: 681 Message: 692

> Would you share your experiences with the speaker Mic system?

Sure. The product we tried to use was the GiSTEQ Explorer from http://www.semsons.com/giexgpstrand.html. It looks identical to the Infinity GPS mic but is about half the price. I believe EF Johnson also sells an identical-looking product. I heard that Pryme designed the physical units, but I believe they use different firmware and the over-the-air protocol is not compatible between different branded units.

The units function as advertised, for the most part. Transmit and RX of position information works. The main problem we ran into was software for plotting the positions on a computer map. Nothing seems to exist that works with these units.

Getting information about the units from GiSTEQ has been impossible. Emails to support go unanswered. The phone support doesn't know anything about the product or even if they still produce it! All of the product information has been removed from their web site, as have the PC drivers for the product.

I can go into more detail and give you more information if you have specific questions.

Kevin
KB9MQU

693. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-22 15:44:19 UTC
From: CaptALord
Topic: 681 Message: 693

Kevin,

I found the listing for the units by searching for the model name, but it does not look like they consider it exactly a feature item! If you thought that the unit had potential, I could scrounge a pair and see if Byon could write an interpreter/converter to turn it into standard APRS format so that we could use it with a wider array of mapping software. (and possibly digipeaters) The GPS function look like the basic Etrex mapping, but that's probably not too bad for wilderness environments. Any idea what the over-the-air data format looks like?

Allen
VHS
AF60F

In a message dated 04/22/09 08:26:42 Pacific Daylight Time, kevin@... writes:

> Would you share your experiences with the speaker Mic system?

Sure. The product we tried to use was the GiSTEQ Explorer from http://www.semsons.com/giexgpstrand.html. It looks identical to the Infinity GPS mic but is about half the price. I believe EF Johnson also sells an identical-looking product. I heard that Pryme designed the physical units, but I believe they use different firmware and the over-the-air protocol is not compatible between different branded units.

The units function as advertised, for the most part. Transmit and RX of position information works. The main problem we ran into was software for plotting the positions on a computer map. Nothing seems to exist that works with these units.

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I can go into more detail and give you more information if you have specific questions.

Kevin
KB9MQU

694. Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-22 15:49:28 UTC
From: Keith VE7GDH
Topic: 681 Message: 694

Kevin KB9MQU wrote...

> Scott, It's been a while since I've heard an update about your SAR
> tracker package project...

I'm sure Scott will reply when he gets a chance, but in case you aren't aware, he is (as far as I know) still in China on a buying trip, so replies might be a bit slower than usual.

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

695. Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-22 15:39:47 UTC
From: Rudy Benner
Topic: 681 Message: 695

http://www.semsons.com/giexgpstrand.html

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Kevin Ratcliff <kevin@...> wrote:
>
> > Would you share your experiences with the speaker Mic system?
>
> Sure. The product we tried to use was the GiSTEQ Explorer from
> http://www.semsons.com/giexgpstrand.html. It looks identical to the
> Infinity GPS mic but is about half the price. I believe EF Johnson
> also sells an identical-looking product. I heard that Pryme designed
> the physical units, but I believe they use different firmware and the
> over-the-air protocol is not compatible between different branded
> units.
>
> The units function as advertised, for the most part. Transmit and RX
> of position information works. The main problem we ran into was
> software for plotting the positions on a computer map. Nothing seems
> to exist that works with these units.
>
> Getting information about the units from GiSTEQ has been impossible.
> Emails to support go unanswered. The phone support doesn't know
> anything about the product or even if they still produce it! All of
> the product information has been removed from their web site, as have
> the PC drivers for the product.
>
> I can go into more detail and give you more information if you have
> specific questions.
>
> Kevin
> KB9MQU
>

696. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-22 16:17:40 UTC
From: Kevin Ratcliff
Topic: 681 Message: 696

The GPS receive sensitivity seems good enough, but nothing like my 60Cx. The mapping on the GPS on the other hand is IMHO useless. The firmware seems quite buggy.

I don't have the details of the over-the-air format, but I believe Scott has actually experimented briefly with a Infinity GPS mic and might know more than I do about the format. I don't know of any way to decode this over-the-air, other than purchasing a compatible unit.

The USB function of the unit is actually just a USB<->serial converter and the GPS shows up as a serial comm port on Windows. The GPS outputs a non-standard $GPWGT NMEA sentence when it receives a position report from another unit. The $GPWGT sentence contains the waypoint name, latitude, longitude, and some other information that I'm not sure about.

I actually started writing an app for the serial output that parses the $GPWGT and creates a network KML link that's usable in Google Earth and ExpertGPS. I got proof-of-concept code working but have not had time to do any more work with it. I'm not a programmer though, so it was taking me to long to do what a real programming would consider simple tasks.

At this time I do not think the unit has much potential and I'm tired of trying to make it work. I just don't want to waste any more of my time on it. Unfortunately it's too late for us to return the 3 units we bought (with personal funds, my SAR team has no budget for this project). However, since the unit is doing me no good at the moment I would be happy to loan it out to someone if they are serious about developing a solution using it. I'd have to check with the other team members to see if one of them would be willing to do the same, as two units would probably be required for testing/development.

I didn't realize Scott was still in China. Scott, I'm in no hurry for a response about the T2 SAR packaging, just whenever you have time.

Thanks!

Kevin
KB9MQU

On Wed, Apr 22, 2009 at 11:44 AM, CaptALord <CaptALord@...> wrote:
>
>
> Kevin,
>
> I found the listing for the units by searching for the model name, but it

> does not look like they consider it exactly a feature item! If you thought
> that the unit had potential, I could scrounge a pair and see if Byon could
> write an interpreter/converter to turn it into standard APRS format so that
> we could use it with a wider array of mapping software. (and possibly
> digipeaters) The GPS function look like the basic Etrex mapping, but that's
> probably not too bad for wilderness environments. Any idea what the
> over-the-air data format looks like?
>
> Allen
> VHS
> AF60F
>
>
>
> In a message dated 04/22/09 08:26:42 Pacific Daylight Time,
> kevin@kevinratcliff.com writes:
>
>> Would you share your experiences with the speaker Mic system?
>
> Sure. The product we tried to use was the GiSTEQ Explorer from
> http://www.semsons.com/giexgpstrand.html. It looks identical to the
> Infinity GPS mic but is about half the price. I believe EF Johnson
> also sells an identical-looking product. I heard that Pryme designed
> the physical units, but I believe they use different firmware and the
> over-the-air protocol is not compatible between different branded
> units.
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> The units function as advertised, for the most part. Transmit and RX
> of position information works. The main problem we ran into was
> software for plotting the positions on a computer map. Nothing seems
> to exist that works with these units.
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> Getting information about the units from GiSTEQ has been impossible.
> Emails to support go unanswered. The phone support doesn't know
> anything about the product or even if they still produce it! All of
> the product information has been removed from their web site, as have
> the PC drivers for the product.
>
> I can go into more detail and give you more information if you have
> specific questions.
>
> Kevin
> KB9MQU
>
>
>
>

697. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-22 16:20:01 UTC
From: Kevin Ratcliff
Topic: 681 Message: 697

Yes, Semons is the vendor that sells them and is where we bought ours from. They refered us to GiSTEQ, the manufacturer, for support though. The links to the GiSTEQ web site under "Support Information" on the page you reference are all 404 now (they were working a few months ago when we purchased the GPS mic's).

Thanks.

Kevin
KB9MQU

On Wed, Apr 22, 2009 at 11:39 AM, Rudy Benner <benner@...> wrote:
> http://www.semsons.com/giexgpstrand.html
>
> --- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Kevin Ratcliff <kevin@...> wrote:
>>
>> > Would you share your experiences with the speaker Mic system?
>>
>> Sure. The product we tried to use was the GiSTEQ Explorer from
>> http://www.semsons.com/giexgpstrand.html. It looks identical to the
>> Infinity GPS mic but is about half the price. I believe EF Johnson
>> also sells an identical-looking product. I heard that Pryme designed
>> the physical units, but I believe they use different firmware and the
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>> of position information works. The main problem we ran into was
>> software for plotting the positions on a computer map. Nothing seems
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>> anything about the product or even if they still produce it! All of
>> the product information has been removed from their web site, as have
>> the PC drivers for the product.
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>> I can go into more detail and give you more information if you have
>> specific questions.
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>> Kevin
>> KB9MQU
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698. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-23 03:38:42 UTC
From: DaveN roadfacts.com
Topic: 681 Message: 698

Kevin,
It sounds like the string may be easy to build into the Dmapper platform for posting to Terrain Navigator or NatGeo Topo. would you mind sending me a full string example if you still have one?
Dave W7PDQ
www.dmapper.com

----- Original Message -----
From: "Kevin Ratcliff" <kevin@...>
The USB function of the unit is actually just a USB<->serial converter and the GPS shows up as a serial comm port on Windows. The GPS outputs a non-standard $GPWGT NMEA sentence when it receives a position report from another unit. The $GPWGT sentence contains the waypoint name, latitude, longitude, and some other information that I'm not sure about.

I actually started writing an app for the serial output that parses the $GPWGT and creates a network KML link that's usable in Google Earth and ExpertGPS. I got proof-of-concept code working but have not had time to do any more work with it. I'm not a programmer though, so it was taking me to long to do what a real programming would consider simple tasks.

699. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-23 11:37:58 UTC
From: Kevin Ratcliff
Topic: 681 Message: 699

Dave,

Here is an example string from a received position:

$GPWGT,A,39.16059,N,086.52829,W,252,5,8,David
,0003DC,01,01,0F,090411,152454*26

(watch for word wrap, that's one line)

In this case "David" is the waypoint name being transmitted by the GPS mic. I'm at work now, but when I get home I can do a full serial port capture of everything the GPS mic outputs and send it to you off-list.

Also, if you Google "GPWGT" you will find a snippet of code in the T2 SVN source that Scott has apparently implemented in the T2 for output over the T2serial port to other compatible software:

https://svn.freepository.com/50lItuLQ7fW6s-web/browser/Tracker2/trunk/sources/waypoint.c?rev=194

When I said earlier there was no software that works with these mics, that wasn't entirely correct. Maptech has something called a "Team Tracker Module" that works with some GPS mics, but they couldn't tell me if it would work with the GiSTEQ Explorer. The don't offer any type of trial of the Team Tracker, and it costs $600 per PC.

There is also apparently some sort of ESRI ArcGIS software that works with the Infinity / Thales mics, but that would require purchasing ArcGIS, which is not in our budget at this time.

Finally, there is someone working on a plugin for the free ESRI ArcExplorer software, and I've been in contact with him, but the project is stalled at the moment due to his time constraints.

Thanks everyone for your input!

Kevin
KB9MQU

On Wed, Apr 22, 2009 at 11:38 PM, DaveN roadfacts.com
<dave@...> wrote:
> Kevin,
> It sounds like the string may be easy to build into the Dmapper platform for
> posting to Terrain Navigator or NatGeo Topo. would you mind sending me a
> full string example if you still have one?
> Dave W7PDQ
> www.dmapper.com
>

> ----- Original Message -----
> From: "Kevin Ratcliff" <kevin@...>
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> and the GPS shows up as a serial comm port on Windows. The GPS outputs
> a non-standard $GPWGT NMEA sentence when it receives a position report
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> latitude, longitude, and some other information that I'm not sure
> about.
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> I actually started writing an app for the serial output that parses
> the $GPWGT and creates a network KML link that's usable in Google
> Earth and ExpertGPS. I got proof-of-concept code working but have not
> had time to do any more work with it. I'm not a programmer though, so
> it was taking me to long to do what a real programming would consider
> simple tasks.
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700. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-23 16:14:51 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 681 Message: 700

I put the GPWGT output in the T2 for compatibility with that ArcGIS
plugin. I just reverse-engineered the basic fields from some output
from the Infinity mics that I captured at SARCity.

Scott
N1VG

Kevin Ratcliff wrote:
> Dave,
>
> Here is an example string from a received position:
>
> $GPWGT,A,39.16059,N,086.52829,W,252,5,8,David
> ,0003DC,01,01,0F,090411,152454*26
>
> (watch for word wrap, that's one line)
>
> In this case "David" is the waypoint name being transmitted by the GPS
> mic. I'm at work now, but when I get home I can do a full serial port
> capture of everything the GPS mic outputs and send it to you off-list.
>
> Also, if you Google "GPWGT" you will find a snippet of code in the T2
> SVN source that Scott has apparently implemented in the T2 for output
> over the T2serial port to other compatible software:
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> https://svn.freepository.com/50lItuLQ7fW6s-web/browser/Tracker2/trunk/sources/waypoint.c
?rev=194
>
> When I said earlier there was no software that works with these mics,
> that wasn't entirely correct. Maptech has something called a "Team
> Tracker Module" that works with some GPS mics, but they couldn't tell
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> of trial of the Team Tracker, and it costs $600 per PC.
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> There is also apparently some sort of ESRI ArcGIS software that works
> with the Infinity / Thales mics, but that would require purchasing
> ArcGIS, which is not in our budget at this time.
>
> Finally, there is someone working on a plugin for the free ESRI
> ArcExplorer software, and I've been in contact with him, but the
> project is stalled at the moment due to his time constraints.
>
> Thanks everyone for your input!
>
> Kevin

> KB9MQU
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>
> On Wed, Apr 22, 2009 at 11:38 PM, DaveN roadfacts.com
> <dave@...> wrote:
>> Kevin,
>> It sounds like the string may be easy to build into the Dmapper platform for
>> posting to Terrain Navigator or NatGeo Topo. would you mind sending me a
>> full string example if you still have one?
>> Dave W7PDQ
>> www.dmapper.com
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>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: "Kevin Ratcliff" <kevin@...>
>> The USB function of the unit is actually just a USB<->serial converter
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>> a non-standard $GPWGT NMEA sentence when it receives a position report
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701. Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-23 18:30:18 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 681 Message: 701

Sorry for answering messages out of order, my inbox is a bit of a mess! I got through about 150 messages on the plane, but got 400 new ones between the time I got on the plane and when I got home.

The first 4 beta units shipped already. I've got to get some new PCBs made before I do any more, though. Those required way too much manual assembly. I should have some more units ready in time for Dayton, though. I hope. (If anyone knows where I can get 1/16" black Garolite G10 cut to size, that'd save me some time - the standard sizes are too small to be useful, or too big to fit into my CNC milling machine and cutting them down is a pain.)

You might have already said, but I missed it - what made the GPS mic attempt a failure?

Scott

Kevin Ratcliff wrote:
>
>
>
> Scott,
>
> It's been a while since I've heard an update about your SAR tracker
> package project. My SAR team is currently looking into APRS options
> again after a failed attempt to use a commercial proprietary GPS
> speaker-mic system for tracking.
>
> Any additional information you can provide about estimated pricing and
> timeframe for availability would be helpful to us. If you don't have
> this info ready yet that's totally understandable, just let me know. I
> understand that you have a lot of projects going on at once!
>
> Thanks!
>
> Kevin
> KB9MQU
>
> On Mon, Feb 2, 2009 at 4:07 PM, Scott Miller <scott@...
> <mailto:scott%40opentrac.org>> wrote:
> > I've been working on my Tracker2 SAR package again:
> >
> > http://n1vg.net/images/sar_tracker.jpg
> <http://n1vg.net/images/sar_tracker.jpg>
> >
> > It includes a 5-watt transceiver with integrated Tracker2

> > (tracker/digipeater/etc), a SiRFstar III GPS receiver with patch
> > antenna, and an 8xAA battery pack. The whole thing is surrounded by
> > about 1/4" of rubber padding on the inside, and when you close the latch
> > it forms a snug fit that keeps everything in place with a good deal of
> > shock resistance. With some RTV around the base of the antenna, it
> > should be submersible.
> >
> > The pictured unit is mostly a mock-up at the moment, though. All of
> > those pieces are there, but (aside from the T2 and radio) nothing's
> > connected. That antenna is a perfect fit, but it happens to have an SMA
> > connector and not the BNC it needs. The GPS receiver is just dropped in
> > to test the fit.
> >
> > When I'm done, there should be a small control panel with a power LED,
> > on/off/configuration switch, and a programming/external GPS jack. I'm
> > still working on how that's going to be laid out.
> >
> > I wish the loops were on the sides, to make it easier to strap to a pack
> > with webbing, but I'm sure I can still work out some kind of mounting
> > system.
> >
> > Scott
> > N1VG
>
>

702. VX8

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-27 05:00:06 UTC
From: J lists
Topic: 681 Message: 702

All: After about 3 weeks playing with the VX-8R I'm very impressed with its operation. For those who do not know what the VX8R is. It's the latest handheld radio from Yaesu's Amateur Radio division. The VX8R is a submersible radio with built in APRS capabilities and it's a Quad band handheld radio. 6 Meter, 2 meter, 220, 440 and wide band receive. Along with being Modifiable to go out of the ham bands. With it being APRS capable it has the option to use their GPS microphone to make it report your position through the local APRS network or received by an APRS station at the base of operations.

Some important notes:

- GPS reception is impressive. I was able to receive the same position as my Garmin Map60CSX while in my work place.

- You have to be careful on the battery life. It is very possible to kill the battery in about 90 minutes. *(I was transmitting my location on APRS every 60 seconds and talking on the voice repeater both at full power). Play with your settings to make the most optimal use of available battery power that you can. Playing with it on Sunday gave me about 7 hours of transmitting my position every 3 minutes with about 15 minutes of voice use on it also. ** Note 15 minutes doesn't sound like a long time, but really in radio traffic it a lot of talking during an incident ** This was still at full power, which is most likely how most SAR people would probably use the radio.

- Belt clip SUCKS, I'd strongly recommend using the radio in either a vest that has a radio pocket or a radio harness.

- Stock antenna like all stock antennas pretty much suck. I would strongly recommend a high gain super flexible whip antenna available from comet or maldol. One of those brands.

- The lack of software to program it is not a bad thing. I was able to program the radio within 20 minutes of receiving it. The software / programming cable will be available towards the middle of May. It will be here before we know it!

- The radio is waterproof. Which for some K9 handlers and other SAR people I hear is a VERY important thing.

- For SAR use. This is a HIGHLY recommended radio. I would suggest picking one up if possible. Please note. It's not a cheap piece of equipment.

- The radio can be set to automatic transmit your location or you can manually send your position out when you want.

- The radio supports Mic-E operation IF your repeater has Mic-E capabilities or if you are working on simplex other then 144.39

I'm attaching a recommended list of items to purchase. Shop around as prices vary from place to place.

This is what I have to work with: Total came to like 555.00 with shipping

YAE VX8R - Radio

YAE CD41 - Drop in charger

YAE FGPS2 - GPS unit

MH74A7A - Speaker Mic

Highly recommended and on my list of items to pick up:

FNB102LI - 1800 MAH Battery

YAE FBA39 - AA Battery

** The opinions are mine and mine only. As always research things before you just spend money. **

703. Re: [SAR_APRS] VX8

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-27 11:20:56 UTC
From: Amir Findling K9CHP
Topic: 681 Message: 703

Excellent review. I'm a SAR K9 handler and this is the ham radio that goes with me as it does APRS too, no strings (cables attached).
One thing though, since APRS data goes on screen, I noticed that I prefer using the radio without the speaker-mic/GPS as it is just one more cord to snag, and the GPS being on the speaker-mic, it could easily get banged up if that speaker mic will hit the ground. Since the GPS is a critical piece and there is no back-up for it (unlike the speaker mic as there are the same components inside the radio), it is best when placed on the radio in a chest harness. The belt clips are so bad I never put mine on. They hook up to the battery and the battery clips are well, ok for lightweight Li-ion batteries but not to support the entire radio.

* 73 de K9CHP Amir Findling, Member ARRL, ARRL/ W5YI VE, WAC, WAS
* Website: www.K9CHP.net <http://www.k9chp.net> Blog: http://k9chp.blogspot.com <http://k9chp.blogspot.com/>
* Senior K9 Handler, Eagle Valley Search Dogs http://evdogs.org <http://evdogs.org/>
* K9 Certification Tester, NYS Federation of SAR Teams
* 1st Special Response Group (1SRG) www.1srg.org <http://www.1srg.org/>

J lists wrote:
>
>
>
>
> All: After about 3 weeks playing with the VX-8R I'm very impressed
> with its
> operation. For those who do not know what the VX8R is. It's the latest
> handheld radio from Yaesu's Amateur Radio division. The VX8R is a
> submersible radio with built in APRS capabilities and it's a Quad band
> handheld radio. 6 Meter, 2 meter, 220, 440 and wide band receive. Along
> with being Modifiable to go out of the ham bands. With it being APRS
> capable it has the option to use their GPS microphone to make it
> report your
> position through the local APRS network or received by an APRS station at
> the base of operations.
>
>
>
> Some important notes:
>
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> position as my Garmin Map60CSX while in my work place.
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> possible
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> power). Play with your settings to make the most optimal use of
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> battery power that you can. Playing with it on Sunday gave me about 7
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> was still at full power, which is most likely how most SAR people would
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> - Belt clip SUCKS, I'd strongly recommend using the radio in
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704. RE: [SAR_APRS] VX8

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-04-30 05:35:56 UTC
From: J lists
Topic: 681 Message: 704
Attachments: 2 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

I actually did some hacking of my belt clip J I'm now using a ft60 belt clip on the VX8. All of our team members who bought into the VX8's are putting these on. The only problem is you have to modify the charger unless you want to stress the clip out all the time (that's if your using the drop in charger)

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Amir Findling K9CHP
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2009 7:21 AM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] VX8

Excellent review. I'm a SAR K9 handler and this is the ham radio that goes with me as it does APRS too, no strings (cables attached).
One thing though, since APRS data goes on screen, I noticed that I prefer using the radio without the speaker-mic/GPS as it is just one more cord to snag, and the GPS being on the speaker-mic, it could easily get banged up if that speaker mic will hit the ground. Since the GPS is a critical piece and there is no back-up for it (unlike the speaker mic as there are the same components inside the radio), it is best when placed on the radio in a chest harness. The belt clips are so bad I never put mine on. They hook up to the battery and the battery clips are well, ok for lightweight Li-ion batteries but not to support the entire radio.

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Highly recommended and on my list of items to pick up:

FNB102LI - 1800 MAH Battery

YAE FBA39 - AA Battery

** The opinions are mine and mine only. As always research things before you just spend money. **

705. Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-10 18:43:44 UTC
From: Kevin Ives
Topic: 705 Message: 705

I wanted to ask if anyone has been using their APRS is SAR recently and how did it work out. We used it for a exercise with good success, our problem was on the receiving end and our group is working on that issue.

Also I have seen a vendor that is using a similar produce (http://www.redzonesoftware.com/)tailered for the FIRE and SAR community.

Kevin Ives
SAR APRS Moderator

706. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-10 19:18:27 UTC
From: Jack Swift - Swift Hardware
Topic: 705 Message: 706

try dmapper to solve your "receiving end". we've used it on 3 mock searches and find it helpful. i like how it plots onto maptech topo maps since i'm a topo map junkie <g>.. you DO need a digipeater in a car suitably positioned (units can hear themselves being digipeated so they know they're working). some gps units will show aprs locations as waypoints so you can "go to" a location/object/team easily.
<http://www.roadfacts.com/software/dmapper/dmapperInfo.htm>

no real searches - 1/2 the people carry their own gps and 1/2 the people play x-box in their living rooms and never leave.....

On Mon, Aug 10, 2009 at 2:43 PM, Kevin Ives<knives@...> wrote:
> I wanted to ask if anyone has been using their APRS is SAR recently and how did it work out. We used it for a exercise with good success, our problem was on the receiving end and our group is working on that issue.
>
> Also I have seen a vendor that is using a similar produce (http://www.redzonesoftware.com/)tailered for the FIRE and SAR community.
>
> Kevin Ives
> SAR APRS Moderator
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv
Jack Swift
I.E. Swift Co.
402 Shelden Ave.
Houghton, MI 49931
906-482-0530, 281-5300
Radio: N8WAV AAR5LD
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

707. Re: Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-10 19:27:44 UTC
From: Ron H.
Topic: 705 Message: 707

Maybe aprspoint, a spin off of aprs and it works well, better mapping with out the hassel of map overlays.
-- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Kevin Ives" <knives@...> wrote:
>
> I wanted to ask if anyone has been using their APRS is SAR recently and how did it work out. We used it for a exercise with good success, our problem was on the receiving end and our group is working on that issue.
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> Kevin Ives
> SAR APRS Moderator
>

708. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-10 19:21:02 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 705 Message: 708

On Mon, 10 Aug 2009, Kevin Ives wrote:

> I wanted to ask if anyone has been using their APRS is SAR
> recently and how did it work out. We used it for a exercise with
> good success, our problem was on the receiving end and our group
> is working on that issue.
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> Also I have seen a vendor that is using a similar produce
> (http://www.redzonesoftware.com/)tailered for the FIRE and SAR
> community.

Yes, some of the Xastir users are actively using it for SAR. I've personally coordinated two mock searches with multiple trackers but have not convinced the powers-that-be to implement APRS for real searches. If I was richer or more persistent we'd be using it currently. All of the mock search equipment was mine or borrowed for the weekend from friends. I used Xastir on a search last night but not in an APRS capacity. I was plotting UTM coordinates of teams and helping figure out contours for planning purposes.

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

709. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-10 19:56:54 UTC
From: Kevin Ratcliff
Topic: 705 Message: 709

On Mon, Aug 10, 2009 at 2:43 PM, Kevin Ives<knives@...> wrote:
> I wanted to ask if anyone has been using their APRS is SAR recently and how did it work out. We used it for a exercise with good success, our problem was on the receiving end and our group is working on that issue.

My team has used Xastir quite successfully on small-scale mock searches, but not on a real search yet. The equipment is all configured and ready-to-go though, and we have the approval to use it when we get called next.

We have three people with laptops with Xastir ready to go. We three dedicated Byonics A-I-O trackers, plus two personally owned VX-8R's, one TH-D7A, and two D700's. When Scott's Argent Data SAR tracker is ready we may be getting one or more of them. We also have a portable digi, which is an Argent Data T2-301.

Getting Xastir up and running took some time, especially getting the maps the way we wanted them, but it was worth it.

I will post an Xastir log file and screenshots of our next large-scale mock search.

> Also I have seen a vendor that is using a similar produce (http://www.redzonesoftware.com/)tailered for the FIRE and SAR community.

I can't comment on the RedZone software, but I can comment on the hardware GPS mics that they use. The mic's are the same as the Infinity / Ef Johnson / GiSTEQ mics. While the mic's do function as advertised (transmit and receive a position), we were not pleased with the user interface at all. There was also the problem of software: at the time there were a very limited number of software applications that would work with these mics, all costing more than the GPS mic hardware itself. I haven't checked lately to see if this is still the case.

We went to APRS and haven't looked back since.

Kevin
KB9MQU

710. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-10 20:18:09 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 705 Message: 710

On Mon, 10 Aug 2009, Jack Swift - Swift Hardware wrote:

> try dmapper to solve your "receiving end". we've used it on 3 mock
> searches and find it helpful. i like how it plots onto maptech topo
> maps since i'm a topo map junkie <g>

FYI: Xastir does topo maps too, for free, plus you also get the
added benefit of not having to run Windows... hi hi

Xastir: $0.00
Maps: $0.00 (USGS DRG topos)
Operating System: $0.00 (Linux)

Them's my kind of numbers!

Then again there _are_ ways of running Xastir under Windows too.
The best way currently is under VMWare as an Ubuntu (Kubuntu? I
forget which one they used) Linux image.

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

711. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-10 20:10:38 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 705 Message: 711

On Mon, 10 Aug 2009, Kevin Ratcliff wrote:

> My team has used Xastir quite successfully on small-scale mock
> searches, but not on a real search yet. The equipment is all
> configured and ready-to-go though, and we have the approval to use it
> when we get called next.

I should have mentioned that we used two copies of Xastir at the
last two Seattle Marathon's for SAG vehicle tracking. It's similar
to a SAR mission but we used already-configured mobile trackers and,
this is important, DIDN'T TOUCH THEIR CONFIGS AT ALL!

The reason that is important is: When you start messing with
configs for volunteers that show up with working equipment, you
often make that equipment NOT WORK for the duration of the
event. We used the "tactical callsign" feature of Xastir to give
them the TAC calls we were using on the air, which transmitted the
TAC call to the other Xastir automatically, so we used the mobile
trackers which showed up to help at our event without touching them.

My experience with the mock searches and using some borrowed
equipment was that we typically ended up with about 1/2 of the
trackers working. Those that worked, worked well. The others were
not heard from for the duration of the mock search. The all-in-one
or nearly-all-in-one trackers would be of interest to me next time.
The fewer cables the better.

Also pre-emptive digipeating with n-N capability would be
important... It could save having to deploy local digipeaters by
having the SAR teams digipeat amongst themselves and back to base.
The Tracker2 products can do this already.

> The mic's are the same as the
> Infinity / Ef Johnson / GiSTEQ mics.

> There was also the problem of software: at
> the time there were a very limited number of software applications
> that would work with these mics, all costing more than the GPS mic
> hardware itself. I haven't checked lately to see if this is still the
> case.

I believe Scott Miller (OpenTracker guy) had one of these in his
hands long enough to derive some of the protocol. He's on this
list...

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712. RE: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-10 22:00:44 UTC
From: Jim Carr
Topic: 705 Message: 712
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

I have been using APRS for some time with our SAR group. Here is a copy of an article that I wrote for QST that details what we are using.

Jim Carr, KC4MHH

james@...

http://www.fireline.org

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Kevin Ives
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 2:44 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

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Kevin Ives
SAR APRS Moderator

713. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all [1 Attachment]

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-10 22:22:53 UTC
From: Ron Handke
Topic: 705 Message: 713

I would guess that you can not make the attachment work, we have the same group problem, so maybe try this and send the copy to the files section, just guessing that would work ?????????

"Where you are going, is not as important as HOW you get there" AND on the way, TRUST your DOG!!!
Ron Handke, tc62

309-241-8144 Emerg. Contact
Tazewell County Emergency Services, a working Division of Tazewell EMA

From: Jim Carr <james@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 5:00:44 PM
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Hello all [1 Attachment]

[Attachment(s) from Jim Carr included below]

I have been using APRS for some time with our SAR group. Here is a copy of an article that I wrote for QST that details what we are using.

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james@fireline. org
http://www.fireline.org

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Kevin Ives
SAR APRS Moderator

714. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-10 23:31:42 UTC
From: Craig Anderson
Topic: 705 Message: 714

On July 12 the San Jose RACES group handled the Lance Armstrong Livestrong Challenge bike ride. We had about 1800 riders (I think) and another 1000 runners (it's only been a month and I've forgotten already)-:. We used Xastir to track 15 SAG vehicles over the 5 courses. I had 1 station at the command post with a radio/TNC/Xastir to receive all the packets. This was connected to an 802.11 wireless network with 2 net control stations running Xastir laptops, an Xastir station in the police comm van, and another Xastir (a VM on Windows) for our PIO tent. All these Xastir machines were fed by the one radio/TNC/Xastir machine. I had one more laptop (a Mac running a Linux VM) that I entered all the rest stops and turn locations as objects in Xastir and this machine injected all those points into all the command post Xastir machines (I ran out of time to get a real course map set up so I fell back to injecting objects onto everyone's map).

We worked pretty hard to scrape together enough APRS units to fill the 15 SAG vehicles, and almost all of them actually worked. But about half of the units were borrowed so the user wasn't the owner and that caused most of the problems.

It was the first time I had convinced the RACES group to use APRS for anything. It took quite a while before anyone started really looking at the maps. I couldn't get them to try it out before, so the morning of the race was the first time anyone (but me) had seen Xastir so they weren't comfortable with it and kept asking me how to use it. By the end of the race they were depending on it.

We only had to put up 2 digipeaters to get about 95% coverage of the course. Keep in mind that we were not using 144.39 because it's so overloaded in the SF Bay Area as to be almost unusable.

All in all, it worked excellently. Everyone, including the Livestrong Challenge people, were very impressed with it and wanted to talk about how to use it better for the next race they had scheduled. Evidently, the only other city the Livestrong folks run races in that has used APRS is Philadelphia, which I heard was more advanced than we were.

Craig, N6YXK
San Jose RACES Digital Manager

On Aug 10, 2009, at 1:10 PM, Curt, WE7U wrote:

> On Mon, 10 Aug 2009, Kevin Ratcliff wrote:
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> Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
> APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
> Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
> Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
> The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
>
>

715. RE: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 00:13:16 UTC
From: Jim Carr
Topic: 705 Message: 715

I guess the attachment won't go through yahoogroups. Anyway, you can download it at: ftp://fireline.org/SAR%20Photos/PS.pdf <ftp://fireline.org/SAR Photos/PS.pdf>

Jim Carr, KC4MHH

james@...

http://www.fireline.org

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Ron Handke
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 6:23 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

I would guess that you can not make the attachment work, we have the same group problem, so maybe try this and send the copy to the files section, just guessing that would work ?????????

"Where you are going, is not as important as HOW you get there" AND on the way, TRUST your DOG!!!

Ron Handke, tc62

309-241-8144 Emerg. Contact

Tazewell County Emergency Services, a working Division of Tazewell EMA

From: Jim Carr <james@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 5:00:44 PM
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Hello all [1 Attachment]

I have been using APRS for some time with our SAR group. Here is a copy of an article that I wrote for QST that details what we are using.

Jim Carr, KC4MHH

james@fireline. org <mailto:james@...>

http://www.fireline.org

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com <http://s.com/> [mailto:SAR_
APRS@yahoogroups .com] On Behalf Of Kevin Ives
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 2:44 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroup s.com
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

I wanted to ask if anyone has been using their APRS is SAR recently and how did it work out. We used it for a exercise with good success, our problem was on the receiving end and our group is working on that issue.

Also I have seen a vendor that is using a similar produce (http://www.redzonesoftware.com/)tailered for the FIRE and SAR community.

Kevin Ives
SAR APRS Moderator

716. RE: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 00:26:02 UTC
From: William Daugherty
Topic: 705 Message: 716

So, at the risk of sounding lazy, does anyone have a working VM of Xastir with all the requisite pieces for SAR/APRS? I will admit that I have been pretty happy with UI-View feeding Topo! Via TCP/IP but if there's a better mousetrap...

William Daugherty

KX1Y

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Craig Anderson
Sent: Monday, August 10, 2009 7:32 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

On July 12 the San Jose RACES group handled the Lance Armstrong Livestrong Challenge bike ride. We had about 1800 riders (I think) and another 1000 runners (it's only been a month and I've forgotten already)-:. We used Xastir to track 15 SAG vehicles over the 5 courses. I had 1 station at the command post with a radio/TNC/Xastir to receive all the packets. This was connected to an 802.11 wireless network with 2 net control stations running Xastir laptops, an Xastir station in the police comm van, and another Xastir (a VM on Windows) for our PIO tent. All these Xastir machines were fed by the one radio/TNC/Xastir machine. I had one more laptop (a Mac running a Linux VM) that I entered all the rest stops and turn locations as objects in Xastir and this machine injected all those points into all the command post Xastir machines (I ran out of time to get a real course map set up so I fell back to injecting objects onto everyone's map).

We worked pretty hard to scrape together enough APRS units to fill the 15 SAG vehicles, and almost all of them actually worked. But about half of the units were borrowed so the user wasn't the owner and that caused most of the problems.

It was the first time I had convinced the RACES group to use APRS for anything. It took quite a while before anyone started really looking at the maps. I couldn't get them to try it out before, so the morning of the race was the first time anyone (but me) had seen Xastir so they weren't comfortable with it and kept asking me how to use it. By the end of the race they were depending on it.

We only had to put up 2 digipeaters to get about 95% coverage of the course. Keep in mind that we were not using 144.39 because it's so overloaded in the SF Bay Area as to be almost unusable.

All in all, it worked excellently. Everyone, including the Livestrong Challenge people, were very impressed with it and wanted to talk about how to use it better for the next race they had scheduled. Evidently, the only other city the Livestrong folks run races in that has used APRS is Philadelphia, which I heard was more advanced than we were.

Craig, N6YXK

San Jose RACES Digital Manager

On Aug 10, 2009, at 1:10 PM, Curt, WE7U wrote:

On Mon, 10 Aug 2009, Kevin Ratcliff wrote:

> My team has used Xastir quite successfully on small-scale mock
> searches, but not on a real search yet. The equipment is all
> configured and ready-to-go though, and we have the approval to use it
> when we get called next.

I should have mentioned that we used two copies of Xastir at the last two Seattle Marathon's for SAG vehicle tracking. It's similar to a SAR mission but we used already-configured mobile trackers and, this is important, DIDN'T TOUCH THEIR CONFIGS AT ALL!

The reason that is important is: When you start messing with configs for volunteers that show up with working equipment, you often make that equipment NOT WORK for the duration of the event. We used the "tactical callsign" feature of Xastir to give them the TAC calls we were using on the air, which transmitted the TAC call to the other Xastir automatically, so we used the mobile trackers which showed up to help at our event without touching them.

My experience with the mock searches and using some borrowed equipment was that we typically ended up with about 1/2 of the trackers working. Those that worked, worked well. The others were not heard from for the duration of the mock search. The all-in-one or nearly-all-in-one trackers would be of interest to me next time. The fewer cables the better.

Also pre-emptive digipeating with n-N capability would be important... It could save having to deploy local digipeaters by having the SAR teams digipeat amongst themselves and back to base. The Tracker2 products can do this already.

> The mic's are the same as the
> Infinity / Ef Johnson / GiSTEQ mics.

> There was also the problem of software: at
> the time there were a very limited number of software applications
> that would work with these mics, all costing more than the GPS mic
> hardware itself. I haven't checked lately to see if this is still the
> case.

I believe Scott Miller (OpenTracker guy) had one of these in his hands long enough to derive some of the protocol. He's on this list...

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer> >
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org <http://www.xastir.org> >
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

717. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all [1 Attachment]

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 00:39:29 UTC
From: VA7OTC JD Erskine
Topic: 705 Message: 717

Jim Carr wrote:
> [Attachment(s) <#TopText> from Jim Carr included below]
>
> I have been using APRS for some time with our SAR group. Here is a
> copy of an article that I wrote for QST that details what we are using.
>
> Jim Carr, KC4MHH
>
> james@... <mailto:james@...>
> http://www.fireline.org

> Attachment(s) from Jim Carr
> 1 of 1 File(s)

> PS.pdf <http://d.yimg.com/kq/groups/18219501/454958322/name/PS%2Epdf>

Nice article. Filed under EmComm at home.
Attachment came through fine. New feature of some Y!Groups.

Have a thought re giving half wave antennas a try vice 5/8 wavelength. I always understood the latter required an infinite ground plane for efficiency. There's a Larsen half wave model for VHF terminating with an SO-239. Or a 2/70 as well. This style is a classic for mast top mounting, things with small ground planes, like bicycles, motorbikes . . . people. Might even repurpose a mast top marine VHF antenna if it's specs allow.

When it looked like I might make on to the Nijmegen Marches a few years ago I was going to rig the same mil pack frame with such an antenna for APRS for the four days of that event. Ugh.

Cheers es 73, John
- thinking about an insulated lead, coiled as necessary for a counterpoise in pack bottom/side, inside for safety over efficiency.

J.D. Erskine
VA7OTC/VE?JD
Victoria, BC

718. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 01:37:51 UTC
From: Kevin Ratcliff
Topic: 705 Message: 718

On Mon, Aug 10, 2009 at 8:26 PM, William Daugherty<william@...> wrote:
> So, at the risk of sounding lazy, does anyone have a working VM of Xastir
> with all the requisite pieces for SAR/APRS? I will admit that I have been
> pretty happy with UI-View feeding Topo! Via TCP/IP but if there’s a better
> mousetrap…

The "requisite piece" we needed was local maps; Xastir itself didn't need much tweaking. Topo (DRG) maps were easy to get and use with Xastir, but getting aerial photos working for my state (Indiana) was a challenge. One of my team members finally got it though.
High-resolution color aerial photos of our county are 50GB. That's right, 50GB for one county. We have the rest of Indiana at a lower resolution that takes up 100GB. We were lucky in that Indiana makes its data available for free in a format that we can convert to a format that can be read by Xastir.

There are pre-made Xastir VM's out there, and they work fine, but you won't find one with built-in maps suitable for SAR use. If you have an Internet connection you can use the online topos in Xastir, and feed data to Google Earth using aprskml, but it's rare around here to have a reliable Internet connection at the ICP.

Kevin
KB9MQU

719. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 05:18:56 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 705 Message: 719

> So, at the risk of sounding lazy, does anyone have a working VM of Xastir
> with all the requisite pieces for SAR/APRS? I will admit that I have been
> pretty happy with UI-View feeding Topo! Via TCP/IP but if there's a better
> mousetrap…

http://www.xastir.org/wiki/index.php/Downloads
http://northwest.aprs2.net/rivettracker/torrents/Xastir-Hardy_090307.zip.torrent

Lots of USGS Topo GeoTiffs here:
http://northwest.aprs2.net/rivettracker/torrents/

Didn't realize UI-View could feed Topo!... how does this work? I
prefer Xastir, but I know some that would appreciate a native Windows
solution and are already familiar with Topo!

Tom KD7LXL

720. RE: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 12:17:00 UTC
From: wolf184@juno.com
Topic: 705 Message: 720
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

721. RE: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 12:21:19 UTC
From: William Daugherty
Topic: 705 Message: 721

With the TCP/IP server function In UIV enabled, DMapper takes that data stream and converts it to visible information within Topo! It isn't the most elegant solution I've ever seen, but it does work. Specifically the waypoints/markers are a little clunky.

The good news is that it can function in the field without any Internet assistance. Also it is flexible in that the system can sit on a single machine or can be distributed, much like the previous Xastir example.

I've dabbled with Xastir in the past and my impression was always that the price in time was fairly stiff, hence my desire to find an "applicance" virtual machine version. I'm looking forward to checking it out again.

William Daugherty

http://www.xastir.org/wiki/index.php/Downloads
http://northwest.aprs2.net/rivettracker/torrents/Xastir-Hardy_090307.zip.torrent

Lots of USGS Topo GeoTiffs here:
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Didn't realize UI-View could feed Topo!... how does this work? I
prefer Xastir, but I know some that would appreciate a native Windows
solution and are already familiar with Topo!

<http://geo.yahoo.com/serv?s=97359714/grpId=18219501/grpspId=1705061181/msgId=719/stime=1249968020/nc1=4025373/nc2=5807837/nc3=5191952>

722. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 18:23:51 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 705 Message: 722

> With the TCP/IP server function In UIV enabled, DMapper takes that data
> stream and converts it to visible information within Topo! It isn’t the most
> elegant solution I’ve ever seen, but it does work. Specifically the
> waypoints/markers are a little clunky.

Ah, ok, I've tried the DMapper route before, but if I recall correctly
it does not update the waypoints in Topo in realtime and doesn't
support any type of reverse plotting--for instance, there is no way to
make a waypoint in Topo and have it go out as an object over APRS.

I like the functionality of UI-Point in the city, but need topos for
the wilderness (enter Xastir with USGS Topo GeoTiffs).

Tom KD7LXL

723. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 18:44:29 UTC
From: wolf184@juno.com
Topic: 705 Message: 723

Dmapper can be used with delorme topo without UI-view at all. So that is a nice but many stepped process with no real time update. So this brings my next question. I went to USGS and all I can find to get for topo maps from there is the .pdf files. Am I missing the geotiff section and are they free?
Chad T. Smith
A.R.S. N1SDR
http://kkproductions.servepics.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Tom Hayward <tom@tomh.us>

Date: Tue, 11 Aug 2009 11:23:51
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

> With the TCP/IP server function In UIV enabled, DMapper takes that data
> stream and converts it to visible information within Topo! It isn’t the most
> elegant solution I’ve ever seen, but it does work. Specifically the
> waypoints/markers are a little clunky.

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make a waypoint in Topo and have it go out as an object over APRS.

I like the functionality of UI-Point in the city, but need topos for
the wilderness (enter Xastir with USGS Topo GeoTiffs).

Tom KD7LXL

724. RE: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 18:58:00 UTC
From: bob Wagner
Topic: 705 Message: 724

Here is a source of maps and photos on a county scale. Topos are a composite which makes it nice.

http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/GatewayHome.html

Bob Wagner

Alpine Rescue Team

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of wolf184@...
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2009 12:44 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Dmapper can be used with delorme topo without UI-view at all. So that is a nice but many stepped process with no real time update. So this brings my next question. I went to USGS and all I can find to get for topo maps from there is the .pdf files. Am I missing the geotiff section and are they free?

Chad T. Smith
A.R.S. N1SDR
http://kkproductions.servepics.com

From: Tom Hayward
Date: Tue, 11 Aug 2009 11:23:51 -0700
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

> With the TCP/IP server function In UIV enabled, DMapper takes that data
> stream and converts it to visible information within Topo! It isn't the most
> elegant solution I've ever seen, but it does work. Specifically the
> waypoints/markers are a little clunky.

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I like the functionality of UI-Point in the city, but need topos for the wilderness (enter Xastir with USGS Topo GeoTiffs).

Tom KD7LXL

725. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 19:23:08 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 705 Message: 725

> So this brings my
> next question. I went to USGS and all I can find to get for topo maps from
> there is the .pdf files. Am I missing the geotiff section and are they free?

The map data is free, but a lot of times the distribution media is not
free. A lot of the data for the pacific northwest is available on CD
at the University of Washington library. Some local Xastir users have
saved this data and made it available on the internet in 1 degree by 1
degree chunks.

http://northwest.aprs2.net/rivettracker/

The naming scheme is by lat/long, so 41117 is 41N/117W.

I'm not sure what the best source for your local data is.

Tom KD7LXL

726. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 19:33:46 UTC
From: wolf184@juno.com
Topic: 705 Message: 726

OK thanks. I am in the northeast here so the northwest maps not much help. I extracted a jpg map from nat geo topo and calibrated it in oziexplorer so I am going to see what I can do with that in xastir after I convert it.
Chad T. Smith
A.R.S. N1SDR
http://kkproductions.servepics.com

-----Original Message-----
From: Tom Hayward <tom@tomh.us>

Date: Tue, 11 Aug 2009 12:23:08
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

> So this brings my
> next question. I went to USGS and all I can find to get for topo maps from
> there is the .pdf files. Am I missing the geotiff section and are they free?

The map data is free, but a lot of times the distribution media is not
free. A lot of the data for the pacific northwest is available on CD
at the University of Washington library. Some local Xastir users have
saved this data and made it available on the internet in 1 degree by 1
degree chunks.

http://northwest.aprs2.net/rivettracker/

The naming scheme is by lat/long, so 41117 is 41N/117W.

I'm not sure what the best source for your local data is.

Tom KD7LXL

727. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 19:37:50 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 705 Message: 727

wolf184@... wrote:
> Dmapper can be used with delorme topo without UI-view at all. So that is
> a nice but many stepped process with no real time update. So this brings
> my next question. I went to USGS and all I can find to get for topo maps
> from there is the .pdf files. Am I missing the geotiff section and are
> they free?

http://libremap.org

Caveat: While the list of states is complete, at least
one of them (Alaska) does not list any map files.

That said, there are usually other sites that provide
maps of limited areas (like those of Alaska), or that
may provide maps that libremap does not. I know a few
of them, and many provide files without cost to you.

Again using Alaska as an example, the common topo map
scale is 1:63,360 (similar to the old 1:62,500 for CONUS),
and a few maps are available at 1:25,000 (similar to the
current 1:24,000 for CONUS).

Those groups that have the services of people with GIS
tools can create maps of specific areas of interest, using
stock USGS DRG files, and include updated roads, trails,
and other features. This is a major advantage over topo
map display programs that are usually limited to the
original map editions. This is an improvement upon reloading
a pile of track and waypoint files.

Your group may use a legacy map that doesn't exist in
digital form, for example. If it uses a consistent scale,
it can usually be scanned and georeferenced for display in
GIS programs. I use Photoshop, GIMP, and Global Mapper.

Curt: can custom maps be used in Xastir? I recall that
some assumptions were originally made to use USGS DRG,
especially since most of them are NAD27 and APRS uses
NAD83/WGS84. I haven't tried (yet) to load any of my
custom maps into Xastir. I use them in Oziexplorer
without problems.

Cheers,
Mykle Raymond
Southern Arizona Rescue Association
Tucson

728. USGS DRG topos (Was Re: Hello all)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 19:23:36 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 705 Message: 728

On Tue, 11 Aug 2009, wolf184@... wrote:

> Dmapper can be used with delorme topo without UI-view at all. So that is a nice but many stepped process with no real time update. So this brings my next question. I went to USGS and all I can find to get for topo maps from there is the .pdf files. Am I missing the geotiff section and are they free?

They're not available from any USGS download site as far as I know,
and never have been. They used to sell CD's by the degree for
$30-something each. Some of us got together and bought a few and
traded with other collectors down in OR for a more complete set.
This is fine as we asked USGS at the time and the maps were created
with U.S. taxpayer money and so could be freely traded.

I collected the USGS DRG CD's many years ago for all of WA and much
of northern OR, with a few CD's of HI, MT, and ID thrown in there
too. Xastir is able to use the UNMODIFIED geoTIFF images on those
CD's plus another tiny text file on there to tile together the topos
into a seamless display.

You'll have to hunt down where to get the USGS DRG's. They are
available at some universities around the country, plus this link
may help a bit, particularly for the NW:

http://www.xastir.org/wiki/index.php/Xastir_Maps

The DRG's and the DOQQ's are available from the University of
Washington here in our area. DOQQ's are available online there but
they need some slight massaging before Xastir can use them. DOQQ's
are aerial photographs that have been georeferenced.

Be careful about finding "processed" DRG tiff images.... Some are
out there which have been cropped, and others have been converted to
MrSID compression. Xastir cannot use these.

If going the Xastir route, join the mailing list at www.xastir.org
and ask questions there.

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

729. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 19:48:10 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 705 Message: 729

> http://libremap.org

Thanks for this link! It's a great resource! I was planning to build a database like this myself, but the Internet has been me to it again.

Tom KD7LXL

730. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 19:51:37 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 705 Message: 730

On Tue, 11 Aug 2009, wolf184@... wrote:

> OK thanks. I am in the northeast here so the northwest maps not
> much help. I extracted a jpg map from nat geo topo and calibrated
> it in oziexplorer so I am going to see what I can do with that in
> xastir after I convert it.

We happen to have a script called xastir/scripts/ozi2geo.pl

We also have /xastir/scripts/inf2geo.pl for UI-View map conversion.

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

731. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 19:54:01 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 705 Message: 731

On Tue, 11 Aug 2009, Mykle Raymond wrote:

> Curt: can custom maps be used in Xastir?

We can handle darned-near any image map format, but if they're DOQQ
or DRG geoTIFF images then Xastir needs formats that are just like
the USGS versions.

> I recall that
> some assumptions were originally made to use USGS DRG,
> especially since most of them are NAD27 and APRS uses
> NAD83/WGS84.

Blame me for those assumptions... hi hi

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
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The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

732. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 20:48:31 UTC
From: wolf184@juno.com
Topic: 705 Message: 732
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

733. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 21:14:15 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 705 Message: 733

Curt, WE7U wrote:
>
> On Tue, 11 Aug 2009, Mykle Raymond wrote:
>
> > Curt: can custom maps be used in Xastir?
>
> We can handle darned-near any image map format, but if they're DOQQ
> or DRG geoTIFF images then Xastir needs formats that are just like
> the USGS versions.
>
> > I recall that some assumptions were originally made to use
> > USGS DRG, especially since most of them are NAD27 and APRS uses
> > NAD83/WGS84.
>
> Blame me for those assumptions... hi hi

The debbil is in the DEEtails ...

All of the special maps that I have been creating have used UTM
projection. All are GeoTIFF, and include a TFW global file.
Some may use NAD27, and some NAD83. Otherwise, while the boundaries
are defined by UTM eastings and northings, these maps have not been
created to any standard like DRG boundaries at a regular 7.5' interval.
The coverage has been designed for particular areas of interest
so we don't have to be flipping maps (much).

Our Ubuntu box has a reasonable internet connection, so I have
just been using on-line maps. At some point, I'll need to use
our DRG collection, and I'll be interested in loading the custom
maps and am curious about how successful that might be.

In the trucks, I'm still using Windoze computers with UI-View
providing a port for OziAPRS to grab the packet stream and feed
it to OziExplorer (which displays the custom maps without problems).
The UI-View shows wide-area street maps as an overview, and Ozi
shows the detailed topo maps. We are not saturated with 144.39
traffic, so we get to use the established network of high and
low level digipeaters to complement the SAR-specific digis in
several vehicles.

Mykle

734. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 21:45:49 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 705 Message: 734

On Tue, 11 Aug 2009, Mykle Raymond wrote:

> The debbil is in the DEEtails ...
>
> All of the special maps that I have been creating have used UTM
> projection. All are GeoTIFF, and include a TFW global file.
> Some may use NAD27, and some NAD83. Otherwise, while the boundaries
> are defined by UTM eastings and northings, these maps have not been
> created to any standard like DRG boundaries at a regular 7.5' interval.
> The coverage has been designed for particular areas of interest
> so we don't have to be flipping maps (much).

This is getting into application-specific details best done on an
application-specific mailing list instead of a general SAR-APRS list
like this one. The Xastir list would be better. Probably Tom R.
and I could answer your questions fully there, plus other Xastir
users might benefit from the discussion too. This level of detail
makes everybody else too glossy-eyed.

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

735. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 23:17:28 UTC
From: William Daugherty
Topic: 705 Message: 735

That¹s too bad. I was enjoying the illumination. Perhaps cross-post?

William Daugherty
KX1Y

On 8/11/09 5:45 PM, "Curt, WE7U" <archer@...> wrote:

>
>
>
>
> On Tue, 11 Aug 2009, Mykle Raymond wrote:
>
>> > The debbil is in the DEEtails ...
>> >
>> > All of the special maps that I have been creating have used UTM
>> > projection. All are GeoTIFF, and include a TFW global file.
>> > Some may use NAD27, and some NAD83. Otherwise, while the boundaries
>> > are defined by UTM eastings and northings, these maps have not been
>> > created to any standard like DRG boundaries at a regular 7.5' interval.
>> > The coverage has been designed for particular areas of interest
>> > so we don't have to be flipping maps (much).
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> This is getting into application-specific details best done on an
> application-specific mailing list instead of a general SAR-APRS list
> like this one. The Xastir list would be better. Probably Tom R.
> and I could answer your questions fully there, plus other Xastir
> users might benefit from the discussion too. This level of detail
> makes everybody else too glossy-eyed.

736. Re: [SAR_APRS] Hello all

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-08-11 23:39:08 UTC
From: VA7OTC JD Erskine
Topic: 705 Message: 736

wolf184@... wrote:
> I am interested in how you feed UI-view to topo.
>
>
> 73 DE N1SDR
> Chad T. Smith
> Skype User Name: a.r.s.n1sdr
> http://kkproductions.servepics.com

UI-Terra add-on is apparently dead, API change, some such. One may make
a topographic underlay and install . . under other map products in UI-View.

Just spent a moment or two today looking for (likely third party)
dynamic topographic mapping programs. However any raster image may be
used as a map for UI-View.

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ui-view/
Come on in, the water's fine. It's very much an on-topic group, so if
you use UI-View, be there.

Cheers es 73, John
- attempting a for dummies install of Xastir on Mint Linux (Mint 7/"Gloria")

J.D. Erskine
Victoria, BC
VA7OTC/VE?JD

737. SAR APRS pictures and screen shots

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-10-03 18:20:32 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 737 Message: 737

I'll be doing an APRS session at SAR City in Barstow, CA again next weekend. I'm updating my powerpoint presentation from last year and I think it could use some updated screen shots and maybe some pictures of APRS in action.

If you've got anything appropriate, let me know. I could particularly use a current screen shot of Xastir with a real SAR operation in progress.

73,

Scott
N1VG

738. Re:SAR APRS pictures and screen shots

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-10-04 17:01:55 UTC
From: Matt Lee
Topic: 737 Message: 738

Hi Scott:
I would not mind a copy of your presentation if possible. I need to also do a presentation to a few city councils for approval to spend some government money on APRS and a good presentation might be an asset.
If anyone else has a good power-point presentation or slide-shows to share with the group, please send away!
Thank you!
Matt Lee, VE7MLX.
Deputy Emergency Communication Coordinator.
Armstrong, Enderby, & Spallumcheen Townships.

739. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re:SAR APRS pictures and screen shots

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-10-04 18:29:12 UTC
From: wolf184@juno.com
Topic: 737 Message: 739
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

[Attachment content not displayed]

740. Xastir stable release 1.9.6

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-10-10 18:48:53 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 740 Message: 740

Xastir stable release 1.9.6 is out. Fetch it at:

http://sourceforge.net/projects/xastir/

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

741. New file uploaded to SAR_APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-11-16 21:59:52 UTC
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Topic: 124 Message: 741

Hello,

This email message is a notification to let you know that
a file has been uploaded to the Files area of the SAR_APRS
group.

File : /ACS_SAREX09.ppt
Uploaded by : k6mah <maheil@...>
Description : Solano County SAREX 2009 APRS tracking of ATV team

You can access this file at the URL:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAR_APRS/files/ACS_SAREX09.ppt

To learn more about file sharing for your group, please visit:
http://help.yahoo.com/l/us/yahoo/groups/original/general.htmlfiles

Regards,

k6mah <maheil@...>

742. Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary Communications Service SAREX 2009

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-11-16 22:16:04 UTC
From: k6mah
Topic: 742 Message: 742

I uploaded a file showing some tracks recorded during our County's annual Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX). This is the fourth major training event we have supported with APRS.

For this event we used the MicroTrak AIO units produced by Allen Lord - VHS Products/Byonics. These seem to work well with both ground teams and vehicles. I had the AIO horizontally in the large plastic gear box on the back of my quad palced on top of the stuff I have accumulated for the box. The unit produced reliable signals from within the box, even though horizontal. In fact it worked a bit too well as I forgot to turn it off and it radiated just fine from within the box inside my trailer on the way home. The second unit was placed vertically and mounted to the side of a canvas pack on the back rack of another quad. We used these unitson ground teams and ATV's at our 2008 exercise with success as well.

We have not yet had great luck with finding a mapping solution. We are a Windows/Terrain Navigator combination group. We have one member that has had some success with UI View, but we have not had much luck getting DMAPPER to work for us. We may have operator or configuration issues, but so far we seem to have better luck with online tracking via the Internet than with local tracking from within the command post. Fortunately our command vehicle has an Internet connection.

Mike Heil
K6MAH
90V10
Yosemite 4
Solano County SAR
Solano County ACS
California Wing CAP

743. Indiana-Kentucky SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-11-16 23:57:42 UTC
From: Cliff A. Weaver
Topic: 743 Message: 743

The 2009 Indiana-Kentucky SAR Conference was held November 6-8 2009 at Lincoln State Park in Indiana. Several teams at the conference had APRS capabilities, and APRS tracking was used successfully during the night search exercise.

check the below link for more info

http://www.ovsar.org/09tinytrackers.htm

---
posted by
Cliff Weaver K9EVV
Ohio Valley Search and Rescue
Evansville, Indiana

http://www.ovsar.org

744. Re: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary Communications Service SAREX 2009

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-11-19 04:04:30 UTC
From: DaveN roadfacts.com
Topic: 742 Message: 744

Mike,
Maptech now has a team tracker module for Terrain Navigator that works with APRS. They copied a lot of the function you will find in Dmapper, and it should work better because it is actually part of the TN software. Unfortunately they want more for it than most volunteer SAR groups are able to spend.

If that is not an option for you, please send me an email with the specific problems you are having with Dmapper and I'll work to get you up and running. Dmapper is a little trickier to run because it has to force itself on the mapping program to post the positions. Most mapping companies are not interested in our still small APRS hobby so its hard to talk them in to integrating it as part of the mapping program's functionality. Until more of them support our SAR needs, I will continue to try and make something that will work.

Dave W7PDQ
dave@...
www.dmapper.com

----- Original Message -----
From: "k6mah" <maheil@...>
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 2:16 PM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary Communications Service SAREX 2009

>
> I uploaded a file showing some tracks recorded during our County's annual
> Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX). This is the fourth major training
> event we have supported with APRS.
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> VHS Products/Byonics. These seem to work well with both ground teams and
> vehicles. I had the AIO horizontally in the large plastic gear box on the
> back of my quad palced on top of the stuff I have accumulated for the box.
> The unit produced reliable signals from within the box, even though
> horizontal. In fact it worked a bit too well as I forgot to turn it off
> and it radiated just fine from within the box inside my trailer on the way
> home. The second unit was placed vertically and mounted to the side of a
> canvas pack on the back rack of another quad. We used these unitson
> ground teams and ATV's at our 2008 exercise with success as well.
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> We have not yet had great luck with finding a mapping solution. We are a
> Windows/Terrain Navigator combination group. We have one member that has

> had some success with UI View, but we have not had much luck getting
> DMAPPER to work for us. We may have operator or configuration issues, but
> so far we seem to have better luck with online tracking via the Internet
> than with local tracking from within the command post. Fortunately our
> command vehicle has an Internet connection.
>
> Mike Heil
> K6MAH
> 90V10
> Yosemite 4
> Solano County SAR
> Solano County ACS
> California Wing CAP
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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745. RE: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary Communications Service SAREX 2009

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-11-19 17:49:15 UTC
From: Ives, Kevin N.
Topic: 742 Message: 745

David,

I went to the Maptech website and could not find any information on the add-on you referred. Do you have a link or more information?

Kevin Ives, Emergency Services Technician
Solano County Office of Emergency Services

ACS/RACES Liaison
530 Clay Street
Fairfield, CA 94533-5625
(: 707-784-1600 | 6: 707-421-6383
707-580-4983 Cell
KNIves@SolanoCounty.com <mailto:KNIves@...>
WWW.SolanoCounty.com/OES <http://WWW.SolanoCounty.com/OES>

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of DaveN roadfacts.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 8:05 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary Communications Service SAREX 2009

Mike,
Maptech now has a team tracker module for Terrain Navigator that works with
APRS. They copied a lot of the function you will find in Dmapper, and it

should work better because it is actually part of the TN software. Unfortunately they want more for it than most volunteer SAR groups are able
to spend.

If that is not an option for you, please send me an email with the specific
problems you are having with Dmapper and I'll work to get you up and running. Dmapper is a little trickier to run because it has to force itself
on the mapping program to post the positions. Most mapping companies are not
interested in our still small APRS hobby so its hard to talk them in to integrating it as part of the mapping program's functionality. Until more
of them support our SAR needs, I will continue to try and make something

that will work.

Dave W7PDQ
dave@... <mailto:dave%40roadfacts.com>
www.dmapper.com

----- Original Message -----
From: "k6mah" <maheil@... <mailto:maheil%40pacbell.net> >
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com> >
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 2:16 PM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary
Communications
Service SAREX 2009

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> than with local tracking from within the command post. Fortunately our

> command vehicle has an Internet connection.
>
> Mike Heil

> K6MAH
> 90V10
> Yosemite 4
> Solano County SAR
> Solano County ACS
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746. RE: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary Communications Service SAREX 2009

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-11-19 17:58:13 UTC
From: William Daugherty
Topic: 742 Message: 746

+1

VTSAR uses TNPro and I would love it if we could pump APRS into it as I
do now with DMapper/UIview/Topo!

William Daugherty

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On
Behalf Of Ives, Kevin N.
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2009 12:49 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary
Communications Service SAREX 2009

David,

I went to the Maptech website and could not find any information on the
add-on you referred. Do you have a link or more information?

Kevin Ives, Emergency Services Technician
Solano County Office of Emergency Services

ACS/RACES Liaison
530 Clay Street
Fairfield, CA 94533-5625
*: 707-784-1600 | 6: 707-421-6383
707-580-4983 Cell
KNIves@... <mailto:KNIves@...>
WWW.SolanoCounty.com/OES <http://WWW.SolanoCounty.com/OES>

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On
Behalf Of DaveN roadfacts.com
Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2009 8:05 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary
Communications Service SAREX 2009

Mike,
Maptech now has a team tracker module for Terrain Navigator that works
with
APRS. They copied a lot of the function you will find in Dmapper, and it

should work better because it is actually part of the TN software.
Unfortunately they want more for it than most volunteer SAR groups are

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If that is not an option for you, please send me an email with the
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on the mapping program to post the positions. Most mapping companies are
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interested in our still small APRS hobby so its hard to talk them in to
integrating it as part of the mapping program's functionality. Until
more
of them support our SAR needs, I will continue to try and make something

that will work.

Dave W7PDQ
dave@... <mailto:dave%40roadfacts.com>
www.dmapper.com

----- Original Message -----
From: "k6mah" <maheil@... <mailto:maheil%40pacbell.net> >
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com> >
Sent: Monday, November 16, 2009 2:16 PM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary
Communications
Service SAREX 2009

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> I uploaded a file showing some tracks recorded during our County's
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> than with local tracking from within the command post. Fortunately our

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> Mike Heil
> K6MAH
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> Solano County ACS
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747. Re: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary Communications Service SAREX 2009

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-11-19 17:58:23 UTC
From: Kevin Ratcliff
Topic: 742 Message: 747

On Wed, Nov 18, 2009 at 11:04 PM, DaveN roadfacts.com
<dave@...> wrote:
> Maptech now has a team tracker module for Terrain Navigator that works with
> APRS. They copied a lot of the function you will find in Dmapper, and it
> should work better because it is actually part of the TN software.
> Unfortunately they want more for it than most volunteer SAR groups are able
> to spend.

Team Tracker works with APRS? I thought it only worked with the
Infinity GPS mics?

I contacted Maptech a few months ago and they wouldn't give me a trial
of any type, and they didn't have a lot of information about their
product, so I wasn't about to fork over that kind of money without
more information first.

Kevin
KB9MQU

748. Re: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary Communications Service SAREX 2009

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-11-19 18:01:26 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 742 Message: 748

For what it's worth, the Tracker2 will output received APRS waypoints in
the same format as the Infinity mics. At least, to the extent that I
was able to reverse-engineer the format from the samples I grabbed at
SAR City last year.

Scott
N1VG

Kevin Ratcliff wrote:
> On Wed, Nov 18, 2009 at 11:04 PM, DaveN roadfacts.com
> <dave@...> wrote:
>> Maptech now has a team tracker module for Terrain Navigator that works with
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> of any type, and they didn't have a lot of information about their
> product, so I wasn't about to fork over that kind of money without
> more information first.
>
> Kevin
> KB9MQU
>
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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749. RE:

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-11-19 21:27:52 UTC
From: Ray Shadow
Topic: 749 Message: 749

Maybe I missed something but thought I would comment. We are using TNPro 8 with no additional maptech addons, dmapper, kantronics kpc3+, and byonics tinytrackers to track our SAR team and it is working fine. The biggest problem I am having at the moment is downloading the photo maps through terrain navigator takes forever.

750. Re: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary Communications Service SAREX 2009

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-11-20 03:30:31 UTC
From: DaveN roadfacts.com
Topic: 742 Message: 750

You can find the team tracker module info at the following.
http://maptech.mytopo.com/land/terrainnavigatorpro/index.cfm?infopg=team-tracker

I have not actually tried it myself (too expensive) but I'm thinking along the same lines as Scott that it may accept formats from other devices. They mention the Infinity as an example.... not sure if other unencoded/uncompressed strings will also be accepted.

If anyone hears of someone that bought a copy of the team tracker module, it would be nice to get a review.

Dave W7PDQ
www.dmapper.com

----- Original Message -----
From: "Scott Miller" <scott@...>
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 19, 2009 10:01 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Solano Count Search and Rescue/Auxiliary Communications Service SAREX 2009

> For what it's worth, the Tracker2 will output received APRS waypoints in
> the same format as the Infinity mics. At least, to the extent that I
> was able to reverse-engineer the format from the samples I grabbed at
> SAR City last year.
>
> Scott
> N1VG
>
> Kevin Ratcliff wrote:
>> On Wed, Nov 18, 2009 at 11:04 PM, DaveN roadfacts.com
>> <dave@...> wrote:
>>> Maptech now has a team tracker module for Terrain Navigator that works
>>> with
>>> APRS. They copied a lot of the function you will find in Dmapper, and it
>>> should work better because it is actually part of the TN software.
>>> Unfortunately they want more for it than most volunteer SAR groups are
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>> Team Tracker works with APRS? I thought it only worked with the
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>> I contacted Maptech a few months ago and they wouldn't give me a trial
>> of any type, and they didn't have a lot of information about their

>> product, so I wasn't about to fork over that kind of money without
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>> Yahoo! Groups Links
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751. Xastir station icon size and font color

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-12-26 13:49:17 UTC
From: n1sdr
Topic: 751 Message: 751

Good morning all and a belated Merry Christmas. Hopefully everyone got all the new toys that was on their list. I have been using Xastir for a while now and really like it, especially now that I have downloaded the Tiger maps and can use them offline...this makes me 98.5% Windoze free now. ANYWAYS....I have changed the station font size and the gray,black and black outline on the lettering but is there a way to change the font color all together other than white? Also can you change the station icon size as well? I have googled it with no luck. Thank you for any info.

752. Re: [SAR_APRS] Xastir station icon size and font color

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-12-29 09:26:39 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 751 Message: 752

On Sat, 26 Dec 2009, n1sdr wrote:

> I have
> changed the station font size and the gray,black and black outline
> on the lettering but is there a way to change the font color all
> together other than white?

No, other than changing it in the source code and recompiling. I
use the text-on-black option which makes the font stand out on any
map stackup.

> Also can you change the station icon
> size as well?

No.

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

753. Re: [SAR_APRS] Xastir station icon size and font color

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2009-12-29 13:23:48 UTC
From: wolf184@juno.com
Topic: 751 Message: 753

OK thanks for the reply.
Chad T. Smith
A.R.S. N1SDR
http://kkproductions.servepics.com

-----Original Message-----
From: "Curt, WE7U" <archer@eskimo.com>
Date: Tue, 29 Dec 2009 01:26:39
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Xastir station icon size and font color

On Sat, 26 Dec 2009, n1sdr wrote:

> I have
> changed the station font size and the gray,black and black outline
> on the lettering but is there a way to change the font color all
> together other than white?

No, other than changing it in the source code and recompiling. I
use the text-on-black option which makes the font stand out on any
map stackup.

> Also can you change the station icon
> size as well?

No.

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

754. Map sets for responders heading to Haiti

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-24 08:27:51 UTC
From: easystreets1
Topic: 754 Message: 754

All -

We've created an extensive collection of scaled map products for use in Haiti by responders (free, no strings attached). Directories contain desciptive titles of their contents. All are scaled products with MGRS (USNG) grid lines and are in GeoPDF format to allow printing, digital, and GPS use. Questions, comments, and feedback welcome. USGS is hosting these for us at:

http://edcftp.cr.usgs.gov/pub/data/disaster/201001_Earthquake_Haiti/data/map_products/MISSISSIPPI_DELTA_STATE_MAPS/

Please feel free to disseminate this information further. Do let us know if you use one of these products...

Good Luck!
Talbot

tbrooks@...

755. Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-28 03:01:54 UTC
From: mffrhorne
Topic: 755 Message: 755

Would people who have already done it share what worked to receive and display APRS signals on a portable GPS mapping receiver. The idea is to allow team, crew, or area leaders to keep track of their people in real time. I'm not looking for a solution that is wedded to one manufacturers system. The equipment used should function on APRS frequencies and not only on short range family radio service or similar devices.

--
Tom Horne

756. Re: [SAR_APRS] Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-28 04:34:35 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 755 Message: 756

I used to use a Tracker2 with a GPSmap 60CS. Chased a balloon about 150
miles with that as my primary tracking system and it worked great.

I've got a Colorado 300 that works very well too, but I haven't used it
as much in the field.

Scott
N1VG

mffrhorne wrote:
> Would people who have already done it share what worked to receive and display APRS signals on a portable GPS mapping receiver. The idea is to allow team, crew, or area leaders to keep track of their people in real time. I'm not looking for a solution that is wedded to one manufacturers system. The equipment used should function on APRS frequencies and not only on short range family radio service or similar devices.
>
> --
> Tom Horne
>
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> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>

757. Re: [SAR_APRS] Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-28 04:54:13 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 755 Message: 757

I use my Byonics MT-TT4 with the Avmap G5 display receiver. The simplest way to monitor APRS is to use a notebook with a 3G connection to see your tracker on Aprs.fi, or Openaprs.net, etc.

Allen
AF6OF

-----Original Message-----
From: Scott Miller <scott@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wed, Jan 27, 2010 8:34 pm
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

I used to use a Tracker2 with a GPSmap 60CS. Chased a balloon about 150 miles with that as my primary tracking system and it worked great.

I've got a Colorado 300 that works very well too, but I haven't used it as much in the field.

Scott
N1VG

mffrhorne wrote:
> Would people who have already done it share what worked to receive and display APRS signals on a portable GPS mapping receiver. The idea is to allow team, crew, or area leaders to keep track of their people in real time. I'm not looking for a solution that is wedded to one manufacturers system. The equipment used should function on APRS frequencies and not only on short range family radio service or similar devices.
>
> --
> Tom Horne
>
>
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> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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758. Re: [SAR_APRS] Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 03:08:04 UTC
From: Rick Joslin
Topic: 755 Message: 758

Along these lines there is software for the iphone that will do the same.

Rick
WB5VUL
----- Original Message -----
From: CaptALord@...
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 8:54 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

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Allen
AF6OF

-----Original Message-----
From: Scott Miller <scott@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wed, Jan 27, 2010 8:34 pm
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

I used to use a Tracker2 with a GPSmap 60CS. Chased a balloon about 150 miles with that as my primary tracking system and it worked great.

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N1VG

mffrhorne wrote:
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>
> --
> Tom Horne
>
>
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> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links

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_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 4811 (20100127) _____

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

http://www.eset.com

_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 4815 (20100128) _____

The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

http://www.eset.com

759. Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 17:41:04 UTC
From: Master Firefighter / Rescuer Horne
Topic: 755 Message: 759

All

Let me be clear that I'm looking for a radio based solution that can
receive APRS beacon signals and display them on a PORTABLE mapping GPS
receiver. This being a Search & Rescue group I hope we are not
expecting to have working internet connections on every search & rescue
call out. The kind of thing I'm hoping to find would be able to work on
a two meter frequency other than APRS with temporary digipeaters set up
as needed. I believe that depending on the availability of the internet
during emergency response is a recipe for mission failure.

--
Tom Horne, W3TDH

>
> Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch
> <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAR_APRS/message/758;_ylc=X3oDMTJxZzNsYXYzBF9TAzk3MzU5NzE
1BGdycElkAzE4MjE5NTAxBGdycHNwSWQDMTcwNTA2MTE4MQRtc2dJZAM3NTgEc2VjA2Rtc2cEc2xrA3Ztc2cEc3Rpb
WUDMTI2NDc2MDk1Mw-->
>
>
>
> Posted by: "Rick Joslin" rick@...
> <mailto:rick@...?Subject=%20Re%3A%20Portable%20APRS%20Receiving%20from%20scratch>
> rick5762 <http://profiles.yahoo.com/rick5762>
>
>
> Thu Jan 28, 2010 7:08 pm (PST)
>
>
>
> Along these lines there is software for the iphone that will do the same.
>
> Rick
> WB5VUL
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: CaptALord@... <mailto:CaptALord%40aol.com>
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <mailto:SAR_APRS%40yahoogroups.com>
> Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 8:54 PM
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Portable APRS Receiving from scratch
>
> I use my Byonics MT-TT4 with the Avmap G5 display receiver. The
> simplest way to monitor APRS is to use a notebook with a 3G connection
> to see your tracker on Aprs.fi, or Openaprs.net, etc.
>
> Allen

> AF60F

760. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 18:25:16 UTC
From: Jack Swift - Swift Hardware
Topic: 755 Message: 760

i've been wrong before, but i seem to remember one of our guys hooking up an emap to a thd7a and getting waypoints created on the emap. it might have worked with another gps also but that i part don't remember well.
i know that my tmd700a puts waypoints into my emap (and over-fills the memory much to my chagrin)....
we used (and plan to continue using) 144.39 as out sar/gps frequency because we can take advantage of the infrastructure as well as positioning vehicles with "temp" digipeaters in them for fill-in.

on the other hand, i've found using a program called dmapper (<http://www.roadfacts.com/software/dmapper/dmapperInfo.htm>) with terrain navigator (<http://maptech.mytopo.com>) gets us the view we need for 'command and control'.. no internet needed!!

On Fri, Jan 29, 2010 at 12:41 PM, Master Firefighter / Rescuer Horne <mffrhorne@...> wrote:
> Let me be clear that I'm looking for a radio based solution that can receive APRS beacon signals and display them on a PORTABLE mapping GPS receiver. This being a Search & Rescue group I hope we are not expecting to have working internet connections on every search & rescue call out. The kind of thing I'm hoping to find would be able to work on a two meter frequency other than APRS with temporary digipeaters set up as needed. I believe that depending on the availability of the internet during emergency response is a recipe for mission failure.

--

vvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvvv
Jack Swift
I.E. Swift Co.
402 Shelden Ave.
Houghton, MI 49931
906-482-0530, 281-5300
Radio: N8WAV AAR5LD
^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

761. Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 18:27:20 UTC
From: wsanders1
Topic: 755 Message: 761

For listen only, the simplest way to receive data is to plug the output from a scanner into a PC running sound card software (AGW or similar) and an APRS program (UI-View or similar). I have done this.

To get waypoints to a team carrying handheld GPS's, the latest version of Byonic's TinyTrak and Argents OpenTracker are said to support outputting data in a format compatible with handheld GPS waypoint plotting (Garmin or NMEA? I don't know. You'd still need a scanner to receive the signals.)

Operationswise, the times I've been in the field with a SAR team, the last thing the teams need is to monkey with APRS gear. I might give the teams a (transmit position only) tracker, but an APRS base station, and a operator with good situational awareness, works well to relay needed position info via FM voice, and also to record the tracks of the teams with trackers.

If your organization has APRS-savvy hams that can go out with your teams, so much the better, let us know how it works.

Product like at AVMap, as far as I know, can read the APRS packet data directly, but you still need a radio and a TMC, or a handheld with an embedded TNC.

I am a little concerned that any SAR group would be dependent on a iPhone or Internet-based application. When was the last time you operated in an area with wireless internet coverage? The answer for me is "never"!

-Wiley KF6IIU

762. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 18:36:58 UTC
From: Robert H
Topic: 755 Message: 762

For a number of years, I have used my Kenwood TH-D7 with a Garmin GPSIII plus.
The only additional hardware required is a cable between the two units.
No additional software needed.
The maps are crude by today's standard, but work fine.
Stations are shown on the map as they are received.
Simple, and fairly inexpensive.
The D7 is easy to reconfigure in the field, and does not require a computer to make it go.

I am sure there are other units that will accept the NMEA data from the D7 too.

73
Rob
W6RH

763. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 20:20:00 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 755 Message: 763

On Fri, 29 Jan 2010, wsanders1 wrote:

> To get waypoints to a team carrying handheld GPS's, the latest
> version of Byonic's TinyTrak and Argents OpenTracker are said to
> support outputting data in a format compatible with handheld GPS
> waypoint plotting (Garmin or NMEA? I don't know. You'd still need
> a scanner to receive the signals..

I can plot APRS positions with a Tracker2 and a Garmin GPS-II+. I think pretty much any Garmin that can receive serial NMEA strings will plot positions.

A D700A or D710A (Kenwood mobile rigs) will also plot these waypoints.

A D7A (Kenwood HT) will do the same.

As mentioned the Tinytrak4 has some of this capability now too.

Scott (ArgentData) was working on a radio with built-in Tracker2 board. Did that come out as a product yet? With that and a handheld GPS you could allow everyone to view positions AND everyone could be a digipeater for everyone else. This way you carry your digipeater infrastructure into the file with you. Set these up with one of the Garmins with the FMI protocol and you could send/receive text messages from each GPS as well. I don't know how that last works out for a handheld configuration though, as I believe those are all designed for automotive use and therefore require a source of +12V.

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

764. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 20:32:53 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 755 Message: 764

On Fri, 29 Jan 2010, Curt, WE7U wrote:

> A D7A (Kenwood HT) will do the same.

> Scott (ArgentData) was working on a radio with built-in Tracker2
> board.

I should have mentioned, the D7A gives you 2-way messaging as well and it's own battery, so you'd carry the HT, the GPS, and a cable to connect the two. On the downside, the D7A does not do digipeating of any kind.

The Tracker2/Radio combo would require an external battery I believe, but would allow you to message using the GPS instead of the HT (if the correct type of GPS was used, a NUVI 350 is currently the best). The very positive upside to this combo is that you could set it up to digipeat. I did a writeup on this sort of digipeating for SAR use some time ago but the Wiki site went away. I have the page now and plan to put it up at another site, but the gist of it is:

Turn on pre-emptive digipeating for the path "SAR7-7" in the Tracker2 TNC's.

Set up all the SAR APRS trackers with a transmit path of "WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR7-7"

You get the advantages of using the common North American APRS pathing ("WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1"), but the special advantage of the "SAR7-7" path if you're involved in a SAR mission and have other Tracker2 (T2) units around you with the pre-emptive digipeating turned on. Those T2 units will skip the first part of the path and digipeat/count-down the SAR7-7 part of the path. Voila! An instant network of APRS digi's that work on a SAR mission out in the woods. You get up to seven hops from team to team.

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

765. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 21:09:17 UTC
From: SAR
Topic: 755 Message: 765

Not only will an APRS capable radio download to the GPS unit, it will update the points when new location data comes in. Though it must be connected at the time the data is received, if the GPS is disconnected, the radio does not buffer them to be sent when the radio is connected again.
This has been the *default* behavior on my radios, though I am sure there is some way to turn it off if you wanted.
I have the Kenwood D-700 mobile, and THD-7a handheld.

The mobile with digipeat. I don't think the handheld will. Both of them are capable of sending and receiving APRS Text messages. Both of them are capable of sending email if there is an internet uplink site within range.

Since the accepted standard frequency for APRS is in the 70cm range, I don't think you will find any 2m single-band radios that do APRS internally, all the ones I have seen are at least dual-band. But from what I have seen you can program it to do APRS on any valid transmit range you wanted.

You could probably get something in the tiny-tracker family that would work with any radio frequency settings (which would mean it would probably work over commercial too if you hooked it to a commercial radio, but I have no idea what the legal implications are there).

Wendy Stefaniak, NREMT-P / K9 Breeze
Flathead County Sheriff's Dive Rescue Team - www.flatheaddiverescue.com
Flathead County Search and Rescue - Kalispell, Montana - www.flatheadsar.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Master Firefighter / Rescuer Horne
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, 29 January, 2010 10:41 AM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

All

Let me be clear that I'm looking for a radio based solution that can receive APRS beacon signals and display them on a PORTABLE mapping GPS receiver. This being a Search & Rescue group I hope we are not expecting to have working internet connections on every search & rescue call out. The kind of thing I'm hoping to find would be able to work on a two meter frequency other than APRS with temporary digipeaters set up as needed. I believe that depending on the availability of the internet during emergency response is a recipe for mission failure.

--
Tom Horne, W3TDH

Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch
Posted by: "Rick Joslin" rick@... rick5762
Thu Jan 28, 2010 7:08 pm (PST)

Along these lines there is software for the iphone that will do the same.

Rick
WB5VUL
----- Original Message -----
From: CaptALord@...
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 8:54 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

I use my Byonics MT-TT4 with the Avmap G5 display receiver. The simplest way to monitor APRS is to use a notebook with a 3G connection to see your tracker on Aprs.fi, or Openaprs.net, etc.

Allen
AF6OF

766. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 21:44:38 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 755 Message: 766

On Fri, 29 Jan 2010, SAR wrote:

> Since the accepted standard frequency for APRS is in the 70cm
> range, I don't think you will find any 2m single-band radios that
> do APRS internally, all the ones I have seen are at least
> dual-band. But from what I have seen you can program it to do
> APRS on any valid transmit range you wanted.

In North America the default for APRS is on 2 meters (144.39), not 440. There exist single-band transmitters and transceivers that do APRS on 2-meters. See products from ArgentData, Byonics, Alinco, and RPC Electronics.

In dual-band radios there are the Kenwood and Yaesu HT's and mobile rigs.

Here's a chart of various APRS devices detailing their capabilities. Please send me updates for the chart if you see something amiss/have data for blank entries:

http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/aprs_device_capabilities.html

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

767. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 21:47:43 UTC
From: Amir Findling K9CHP
Topic: 755 Message: 767

My favorite hookup is either my TM-D700 or TH-D7ag and a Garmin 60C(S)x. Both radios are no longer under production but for a mobile set you have the TM-D710 and also look at the Yaesu FT-350.

Why hooking up a perfectly field capable 60C(S)x? Simply, you can have real topo maps, 24K maps loaded in it in advance and no memory limits (with multiple cards). All the other units mentioned have limited mapping capability, mostly on-board memory, way too small to be operational, unless your response area is very limited. The 60CS could be used though but would need an external antenna to be reliable in a vehicle.

You then will see the positions of your stations in quasi real-time, depending on their individual setup. All you will need is power to feed your radio and GPS. Now while the mobile rigs are not meant to be portable, they can easily be used with an 7A SLA gel cell and a half-wave antenna (which doesn't need a ground plane) almost anywhere if they can be in a dry place.

The bad part: this setup is not waterproof.

Even with the D-7, which is an HT, you have a darn cable between the GPS and the radio and I can tell you, it will snag, tangle and get unplugged if not damaged in the SAR field environment. I keep such a setup in a command area.

In field, I now use the Yaesu VX-8 which is waterproof, had the GPS and radio in one small single unit (no cables). The drawback is that I don't get the station positions on a map but the directional arrow and distance are good enough for the mental picture I need (well very few units use APRS in my area).

==========

73 de K9CHP Amir Findling, Member ARRL, ARRL/ W5YI VE, WAC, WAS, DXCC

www.K9CHP.net <http://www.k9chp.net> Blog: http://k9chp.blogspot.com <http://k9chp.blogspot.com/>

Eagle Valley Search Dogs <http://evdogs.org/>, Senior K9 Handler

K9 Certification Tester, NYS Federation of Search Teams <http://www.nysfedsar.org/>

1st Special Response Group <http://www.1srg.org/> (1SRG)

On 1/29/2010 12:41, Master Firefighter / Rescuer Horne wrote:
>

> All
>
> Let me be clear that I'm looking for a radio based solution that can
> receive APRS beacon signals and display them on a PORTABLE mapping GPS
> receiver. This being a Search & Rescue group I hope we are not
> expecting to have working internet connections on every search &
> rescue call out. The kind of thing I'm hoping to find would be able
> to work on a two meter frequency other than APRS with temporary
> digipeaters set up as needed. I believe that depending on the
> availability of the internet during emergency response is a recipe for
> mission failure.
>

768. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 21:58:46 UTC
From: Daniel Nye
Topic: 755 Message: 768

I wasn't clear about the intended use. is it within the scope of amateur radio as far as the FCC would be concerned?

Dan w0nye/ AFA8HE

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Amir Findling K9CHP
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2010 2:48 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

My favorite hookup is either my TM-D700 or TH-D7ag and a Garmin 60C(S)x. Both radios are no longer under production but for a mobile set you have the TM-D710 and also look at the Yaesu FT-350.

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==========
73 de K9CHP Amir Findling, Member ARRL, ARRL/ W5YI VE, WAC, WAS, DXCC
www.K9CHP.net Blog: http://k9chp. <http://k9chp.blogspot.com/> blogspot.com
Eagle Valley Search Dogs <http://evdogs.org/> , Senior K9 Handler
K9 Certification Tester, NYS Federation of <http://www.nysfedsar.org/>

Search Teams
1st Special Response Group <http://www.1srg.org/> (1SRG)

On 1/29/2010 12:41, Master Firefighter / Rescuer Horne wrote:

All
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769. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 22:05:48 UTC
From: SAR
Topic: 755 Message: 769

Hmmm... I guess I was remembering the wrong frequency! Next time I had better look it up before I post.

Thanks for straightening it out!

Wendy Stefaniak, NREMT-P / K9 Breeze
Flathead County Sheriff's Dive Rescue Team - www.flatheaddiverescue.com
Flathead County Search and Rescue - Kalispell, Montana - www.flatheadsar.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Curt, WE7U
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, 29 January, 2010 2:44 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

On Fri, 29 Jan 2010, SAR wrote:

> Since the accepted standard frequency for APRS is in the 70cm
> range, I don't think you will find any 2m single-band radios that
> do APRS internally, all the ones I have seen are at least
> dual-band. But from what I have seen you can program it to do
> APRS on any valid transmit range you wanted.

In North America the default for APRS is on 2 meters (144.39), not 440. There exist single-band transmitters and transceivers that do APRS on 2-meters. See products from ArgentData, Byonics, Alinco, and RPC Electronics.

In dual-band radios there are the Kenwood and Yaesu HT's and mobile rigs.

Here's a chart of various APRS devices detailing their capabilities. Please send me updates for the chart if you see something amiss/have data for blank entries:

http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/aprs_device_capabilities.html

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

770. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 22:08:15 UTC
From: SAR
Topic: 755 Message: 770

I am not going to attempt to interpret FCC rules.
However, I would think you would be pretty safe as long as you were using frequiencies assigned to amateur radio users.

Wendy Stefaniak, NREMT-P / K9 Breeze
Flathead County Sheriff's Dive Rescue Team - www.flatheaddiverescue.com
Flathead County Search and Rescue - Kalispell, Montana - www.flatheadsar.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Daniel Nye
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Friday, 29 January, 2010 2:58 PM
Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

I wasn't clear about the intended use. is it within the scope of amateur radio as far as the FCC would be concerned?

Dan w0nye/ AFA8HE

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Amir Findling K9CHP
Sent: Friday, January 29, 2010 2:48 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

My favorite hookup is either my TM-D700 or TH-D7ag and a Garmin 60C(S)x. Both radios are no longer under production but for a mobile set you have the TM-D710 and also look at the Yaesu FT-350.

Why hooking up a perfectly field capable 60C(S)x? Simply, you can have real topo maps, 24K maps loaded in it in advance and no memory limits (with multiple cards). All the other units mentioned have limited mapping capability, mostly on-board memory, way too small to be operational, unless your response area is very limited. The 60CS could be used though but would need an external antenna to be reliable in a vehicle.

You then will see the positions of your stations in quasi real-time, depending on their individual setup. All you will need is power to feed your radio and GPS. Now while the mobile rigs are not meant to be portable, they can easily be used with an 7A SLA gel cell and a half-wave antenna (which doesn't need a ground plane) almost anywhere if they can be in a dry place.

The bad part: this setup is not waterproof.

Even with the D-7, which is an HT, you have a darn cable between the GPS and the radio and I can tell you, it will snag, tangle and get unplugged if not damaged in the SAR field environment. I keep such a setup in a command area.

In field, I now use the Yaesu VX-8 which is waterproof, had the GPS and radio in one small single unit (no cables). The drawback is that I don't get the station positions on a map but the directional arrow and distance are good enough for the mental picture I need (well very few units use APRS in my area).

==========

73 de K9CHP Amir Findling, Member ARRL, ARRL/ W5YI VE, WAC, WAS, DXCC

www.K9CHP.net Blog: http://k9chp.blogspot.com

Eagle Valley Search Dogs, Senior K9 Handler

K9 Certification Tester, NYS Federation of Search Teams

1st Special Response Group (1SRG)

On 1/29/2010 12:41, Master Firefighter / Rescuer Horne wrote:

All

Let me be clear that I'm looking for a radio based solution that can receive APRS beacon signals and display them on a PORTABLE mapping GPS receiver. This being a Search & Rescue group I hope we are not expecting to have working internet connections on every search & rescue call out. The kind of thing I'm hoping to find would be able to work on a two meter frequency other than APRS with temporary digipeaters set up as needed. I believe that depending on the availability of the internet during emergency response is a recipe for mission failure.

771. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 22:27:59 UTC
From: Amir Findling K9CHP
Topic: 755 Message: 771

Well, if there should not be problem with the FCC if the person carrying the setup is a ham. Now, if the system is locked, so that the user cannot make changes other than turning it on/off then it can be considered a automatic beacon and a control operator (who HAS to be a ham) can have it shut down if there are problems, meaning if another radio system is in use for communications, FRS/GMRS, cell phone etc. and the person carrying is instructed in how to turn it off or take the battery out. Now this point has been discussed ad-nauseum and since it has never come (to my knowledge) before the FCC, there is no definite ruling, just what we might think is applicable.

But since in my area, there are only few hams in SAR (other than in the Adirondacks) and even less APRS capable equipment ever makes it even close to the field, I don't have to worry too much about the FCC and have the luxury to have an opinion FWIW.

==========

73 de K9CHP Amir Findling, Member ARRL, ARRL/ W5YI VE, WAC, WAS, DXCC

www.K9CHP.net <http://www.k9chp.net> Blog: http://k9chp.blogspot.com <http://k9chp.blogspot.com/>

Eagle Valley Search Dogs <http://evdogs.org/>, Senior K9 Handler

K9 Certification Tester, NYS Federation of Search Teams <http://www.nysfedsar.org/>

1st Special Response Group <http://www.1srg.org/> (1SRG)

On 1/29/2010 16:58, Daniel Nye wrote:
>
> I wasn't clear about the intended use... is it within the scope of
> amateur radio as far as the FCC would be concerned?
>
> Dan w0nye/ AFA8HE
>
>
>

772. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 23:37:23 UTC
From: Norm Huber
Topic: 755 Message: 772

Master Firefighter / Rescuer Horne wrote:
>
>
> All
>
> Let me be clear that I'm looking for a radio based solution that can
> receive APRS beacon signals and display them on a PORTABLE mapping GPS
> receiver. This being a Search & Rescue group I hope we are not
> expecting to have working internet connections on every search & rescue
> call out. The kind of thing I'm hoping to find would be able to work on
> a two meter frequency other than APRS with temporary digipeaters set up
> as needed. I believe that depending on the availability of the internet
> during emergency response is a recipe for mission failure.
>
>
> --
> Tom Horne, W3TDH
-Shame is that a D7 and an old Garmin V used to do that. Both units are
"mature" tie out of production. Ran I still run the pair on my bicycle
and as a portable.
-
~~~~~~
- Norm - N9ZKS - Central Illinois - E-:-)
- Motorcyclist, Bicyclist, Ham, Scouter
- '05 Goldwing - Yellow - Rex - 89,000 miles
- '87 Goldwing Interstate - Lagniappe Too - 66,000 miles
- LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULER!
- IBA 25533, MARC, WOTI, GWRRA, AMA, ARRL
- http://www.findu.com/cgi-bin/find.cgi?call=n9zks-9,n9zks-10&radar=***
~~~~~~

773. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 23:14:02 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 755 Message: 773

On Fri, 29 Jan 2010, Amir Findling K9CHP wrote:

> Well, if there should not be problem with the FCC if the person carrying the
> setup is a ham. Now, if the system is locked, so that the user cannot make
> changes other than turning it on/off then it can be considered a automatic
> beacon and a control operator (who HAS to be a ham) can have it shut down if
> there are problems, meaning if another radio system is in use for
> communications, FRS/GMRS, cell phone etc. and the person carrying is
> instructed in how to turn it off or take the battery out. Now this point has
> been discussed ad-nauseum and since it has never come (to my knowledge)
> before the FCC, there is no definite ruling, just what we might think is
> applicable.

Here's the ad-nauseum Wiki page to back up what you just said:

http://info.aprs.net/index.php/ControlOperator

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

774. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-29 23:19:29 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 755 Message: 774

On Fri, 29 Jan 2010, Curt, WE7U wrote:

> The Tracker2/Radio combo would require an external battery I
> believe, but would allow you to message using the GPS instead of the
> HT (if the correct type of GPS was used, a NUVI 350 is currently the
> best). The very positive upside to this combo is that you could set
> it up to digipeat. I did a writeup on this sort of digipeating for
> SAR use some time ago but the Wiki site went away. I have the page
> now and plan to put it up at another site, but the gist of it is:

It's a pain to convert an old Wiki page to standard HTML, but a
first cut at the page resides here:

http://wetnet.net/~we7u/search_and_rescue.html

The section titled "Network Infrastructure for SAR" explains it
better than I did in my previous posting here.

I still need to bring the rest of the page up-to-date with the
current commercial offerings. I did add the VX-8R and FT-350
already.

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

775. Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-30 18:18:46 UTC
From: mffrhorne
Topic: 755 Message: 775

Wendy
You lost me on part of that. The North American APRS frequency is 144.390 MHz and that is a two meter band frequency. I don't see were the 70 CM band comes into this at all.
--
Tom Horne

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "SAR" <sar@...> wrote:
>
> Not only will an APRS capable radio download to the GPS unit, it will update the points when new location data comes in. Though it must be connected at the time the data is received, if the GPS is disconnected, the radio does not buffer them to be sent when the radio is connected again.
> This has been the *default* behavior on my radios, though I am sure there is some way to turn it off if you wanted.
> I have the Kenwood D-700 mobile, and THD-7a handheld.
>
> The mobile with digipeat. I don't think the handheld will. Both of them are capable of sending and receiving APRS Text messages. Both of them are capable of sending email if there is an internet uplink site within range.
>
> Since the accepted standard frequency for APRS is in the 70cm range, I don't think you will find any 2m single-band radios that do APRS internally, all the ones I have seen are at least dual-band. But from what I have seen you can program it to do APRS on any valid transmit range you wanted.
>
> You could probably get something in the tiny-tracker family that would work with any radio frequency settings (which would mean it would probably work over commercial too if you hooked it to a commercial radio, but I have no idea what the legal implications are there).
>
>
>
> Wendy Stefaniak, NREMT-P / K9 Breeze
> Flathead County Sheriff's Dive Rescue Team - www.flatheaddiverescue.com
> Flathead County Search and Rescue - Kalispell, Montana - www.flatheadsar.com
>
>
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: Master Firefighter / Rescuer Horne
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Friday, 29 January, 2010 10:41 AM
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch
>
>
>

> All
>
>
>
> Let me be clear that I'm looking for a radio based solution that can receive APRS beacon signals and display them on a PORTABLE mapping GPS receiver. This being a Search & Rescue group I hope we are not expecting to have working internet connections on every search & rescue call out. The kind of thing I'm hoping to find would be able to work on a two meter frequency other than APRS with temporary digipeaters set up as needed. I believe that depending on the availability of the internet during emergency response is a recipe for mission failure.
>
>
> --
> Tom Horne, W3TDH
>
>
> Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch
> Posted by: "Rick Joslin" rick@... rick5762
> Thu Jan 28, 2010 7:08 pm (PST)
>
>
> Along these lines there is software for the iphone that will do the same.
>
> Rick
> WB5VUL
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: CaptALord@...
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Wednesday, January 27, 2010 8:54 PM
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Portable APRS Receiving from scratch
>
> I use my Byonics MT-TT4 with the Avmap G5 display receiver. The simplest way to monitor APRS is to use a notebook with a 3G connection to see your tracker on Aprs.fi, or Openaprs.net, etc.
>
> Allen
> AF6OF
>

776. Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-31 13:12:13 UTC
From: KI4PYW
Topic: 755 Message: 776

Tom Horne, W3TDH, said:

"I'm looking for a radio based solution that can receive APRS beacon signals and display them on a PORTABLE mapping GPS receiver. . . . The kind of thing I'm hoping to find would be able to work on a two meter frequency other than APRS with temporary digipeaters set up as needed. "

I use a Byonics TinyTrak4 with a Garmin GPSMap 60 CSx and an OLD Midland 2 meter HT. The HT runs off internal battery, the Garmin off two AA batteries and the TT4 off a 9 volt battery. The TT4 decodes packets and puts them as waypoints on the GPS. Yes, this model has it right, when someone moves, it deletes the old position and puts a new one on. Any HT could be used for this, just purchase or build the correct cables. I have used this particular setup on disaster relief trips from Louisiana to Iowa and Minnesota (& one mission trip to Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, where we did NOT use 144.390). It is portable, light weight, the Garmin is even water resistant. Best of all, any of those "waypoints" that are other HAMs, I can immediately get turn by turn directions to their exact location. This is not a great help in the woods, but is fantastic if you are spread out over a very large area, like the Midwest floods of 2008.

I carry this in a backpack for SAR (used several times in various terrain). This system is "frequency agile". We have set up mobile digipeaters and our HTs on 144.990 (.6 mhz higher than .390, just like a repeater input) for a local SAR. This keeps the "clutter" of everyone else out of our way and keeps us from cluttering up normal APRS traffic.

73,
Hub, N4HUB
Jefferson County, Alabama, ARES Emergency Coordinator
Southern Baptist Disaster Relief Chaplain

777. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: Portable APRS Receiving from scratch

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-01-31 14:21:04 UTC
From: Peter Devanney
Topic: 755 Message: 777

As many have mentioned there are several solutions that work technically. Personally have used the Kenwood D7 with Garmin etrex, 60CSX and 196 GPS units with good technical results.

Works well in the SAR aircraft for seeing where other aircraft and ground teams are (if equipped).

Have also tried it on the ground but didn't find it very practical having a radio and GPS wired together. For it to be easily usable, the trees were always snagging the cable. If I packed it away properly, it wasn't really usable for much other than a tracker. With some of the new high sensitivity GPS receivers and chest rigs I think I can see how this problem could be managed.

However, my favorite is now the VX-8. Complete package. Can do both APRS and voice at the same time. Waterproof and well conceived for SAR use. As mentioned by Amir, I also find the basic bearing and distance info helpful for situational awareness and while it would be nice to have the info on the GPS display, I don't miss it with the VX-8.

Peter
VA3YOW-7

On 29-Jan-10, at 12:41 PM, Master Firefighter / Rescuer Horne wrote:

> All
>
>
> Let me be clear that I'm looking for a radio based solution that can
> receive APRS beacon signals and display them on a PORTABLE mapping
> GPS receiver. This being a Search & Rescue group I hope we are not
> expecting to have working internet connections on every search &
> rescue call out. The kind of thing I'm hoping to find would be able
> to work on a two meter frequency other than APRS with temporary
> digipeaters set up as needed. I believe that depending on the
> availability of the internet during emergency response is a recipe
> for mission failure.
>
>
> --
> Tom Horne, W3TDH
>
>>
>
>

778. Looking for SAR Tech 2 Instructor

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-02-24 18:44:11 UTC
From: Music Matt
Topic: 778 Message: 778

Small group of funsar trained looking for a SAR Tech 2 instructor in Spartanburg,SC

779. New Kenwood RC-D710 Interface

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-03-23 02:52:58 UTC
From: Jason R
Topic: 779 Message: 779

All,

We have been working on a new lower cost interface for the Kenwood RC-D710 and standard D710 control head. This interface allows you to easily connect the head to any radio for APRS use.

Basic Details:

- Built-in, filtered voltage regulator to take care of the power.
- Standard pinout 6 pin minidin packet port (use included male to male patch cable for plug and play operation with any radio that has a standard packet port)
- Hard mounted PowerPole DC power connection.
- Tough extruded aluminum housing.
- Small size: About 3" x 2" x 1" (LxWxH)

I have posted some inital photos and more details at:

http://www.rpc-electronics.com/710interface.php

We will have these for sale before Dayton and also plan to have them there, in stock, ready for sale, as well.

Thanks!

Jason KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

780. Dayton Hamvention 2010 APRS Vendor Map

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-05-11 15:06:20 UTC
From: Jason R
Topic: 780 Message: 780

For those attending Dayton 2010, I have made up a quick-reference map to all of the APRS-related vendors.

http://www.rpc-electronics.com/dayton-booth-map.jpg

I was surprised that Kantronics was not on the list this year.

Jason Rausch - KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

781. Dmapper w/GPS Mic test (GPWGT)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-05-15 05:18:29 UTC
From: DaveN roadfacts.com
Topic: 681 Message: 781

FYI...
Anyone got a GPS mic up and running and wants to test it with Dmapper for me? The latest "dmapper.exe" update (Ver 2.18b0)has code to detect the string and post the callsign, as well as create a data file (dmapperGPWGT.txt).

I don't have one of the mics so just running a dummy string based on Kevin's example below. If you have Dmapper running, just get the latest updated EXE and test it with your GPS mic. Let me know if it decodes the callsign and I'll get going on the rest of the string decode.

Won't run on Vista or newer.

Dave W7PDQ dave@...
www.dmapper.com

----- Original Message -----
From: "Kevin Ratcliff" <kevin@...>
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2009 4:37 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: [tracker2] T2 tracker package

> Dave,
>
> Here is an example string from a received position:
>
> $GPWGT,A,39.16059,N,086.52829,W,252,5,8,David
> ,0003DC,01,01,0F,090411,152454*26
>
> (watch for word wrap, that's one line)
>
> In this case "David" is the waypoint name being transmitted by the GPS
> mic. I'm at work now, but when I get home I can do a full serial port
> capture of everything the GPS mic outputs and send it to you off-list.
>
> Also, if you Google "GPWGT" you will find a snippet of code in the T2
> SVN source that Scott has apparently implemented in the T2 for output
> over the T2serial port to other compatible software:
>
> https://svn.freepository.com/50lItuLQ7fW6s-web/browser/Tracker2/trunk/sources/waypoint.c
?rev=194
>
> When I said earlier there was no software that works with these mics,
> that wasn't entirely correct. Maptech has something called a "Team
> Tracker Module" that works with some GPS mics, but they couldn't tell
> me if it would work with the GiSTEQ Explorer. The don't offer any type

> of trial of the Team Tracker, and it costs $600 per PC.
>
> There is also apparently some sort of ESRI ArcGIS software that works
> with the Infinity / Thales mics, but that would require purchasing
> ArcGIS, which is not in our budget at this time.
>
> Finally, there is someone working on a plugin for the free ESRI
> ArcExplorer software, and I've been in contact with him, but the
> project is stalled at the moment due to his time constraints.
>
> Thanks everyone for your input!
>
> Kevin
> KB9MQU
>
>
> On Wed, Apr 22, 2009 at 11:38 PM, DaveN roadfacts.com
> <dave@...> wrote:
>> Kevin,
>> It sounds like the string may be easy to build into the Dmapper platform
>> for
>> posting to Terrain Navigator or NatGeo Topo. would you mind sending me a
>> full string example if you still have one?
>> Dave W7PDQ
>> www.dmapper.com
>>
>> ----- Original Message -----
>> From: "Kevin Ratcliff" <kevin@...>
>> The USB function of the unit is actually just a USB<->serial converter
>> and the GPS shows up as a serial comm port on Windows. The GPS outputs
>> a non-standard $GPWGT NMEA sentence when it receives a position report
>> from another unit. The $GPWGT sentence contains the waypoint name,
>> latitude, longitude, and some other information that I'm not sure
>> about.
>>
>> I actually started writing an app for the serial output that parses
>> the $GPWGT and creates a network KML link that's usable in Google
>> Earth and ExpertGPS. I got proof-of-concept code working but have not
>> had time to do any more work with it. I'm not a programmer though, so
>> it was taking me to long to do what a real programming would consider
>> simple tasks.
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>> Yahoo! Groups Links
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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782. MT-AIO-IV

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-07-03 14:52:04 UTC
From: vhsproducts
Topic: 782 Message: 782

I have just uploaded a photo album for the MT AIO-IV. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MicroTrak/photos/album/1014529163/pic/list)

This is the Transceiver based on the Byonics TT4 controller, and has a 10 Watt transceiver, battery, GPS, etc, "Ready-to-go" (not in the actual sense quite yet though I am afraid) In addition to being a tracker, like the TT4, it can act as a stand-alone digipeater. It has a Bluetooth connection on its primary serial port for programming, firmware uploads, and of course, for use with a PDA or computer for mapping and/or messaging. The GPS code will have an advanced version of the feature we use in the transmitter-only AIO, but will take steps to verify that the position fix is the most accurate position the GPS can provide before allowing a transmission. Turning on the GPS and waiting for a locked signal allows us to run a regular MT-AIO for about 8 days with 2 minute check-ins,with a pack of AA batteries. Although I don't expect the transceiver to run that long (The receiver is always on) I do expect to have excellent power efficiency.

One thing we are looking at is to allow the unit (when operating as a tracker) to first send a low power, 1/2 Watt data burst, and listen to see if it was digipeated. If not, the unit will try again at high power, 10 Watts. This is still experimental, and I am not sure how it will apply when used as a digipeater. I am also not sure if the production model will use the clear-lid case (I just like to see the LED's!) Thoughts?

I have no idea on cost yet, and we hope to have a version ready to test with Lynn Deffenbaughs' APRSIS32 program soon. (If you have not seen it I suggest you take a look at it-its brilliant!)

The initial units are set up to run on battery power, but you could operate it from external power with an regulated power supply, our little power supply board might be suitable, I will have to test and verify. This will be great for airplanes, since the AIO-IV can be mounted out of site, but addressed with a Bluetooth enabled device for messaging and mapping if desired.

For SAR use, the advantage of having each tracker operate as a store and forward station for all the other units should be attractive. In Northern California, where I live the terrain is not always optimal for hitting digis! Lots of deep canyons.....

73,

Allen
VHS
AF6OF

783. RPC Electronics, LLC Fourth of July Sale!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-07-03 16:12:37 UTC
From: Jason R
Topic: 783 Message: 783

For this weekend only (including Monday) we have some of our most popular products on sale!

Save up to 30% off our regular prices. Please visit our Fourth of July sale page at:

http://www.rpc-electronics.com/4ojsale.php

Be sure to buy from the links on the sale page, the normal product pages will have the everyday prices.

Thanks!
Jason KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

784. Re: [SAR_APRS] MT-AIO-IV

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-07-03 16:23:16 UTC
From: Jeff Moore
Topic: 782 Message: 784

Can't access the pics!

Jeff -- KE7ACY
DCARES
Bend, Oregon

----- Original Message -----
From: vhsproducts
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 03, 2010 7:52 AM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] MT-AIO-IV

I have just uploaded a photo album for the MT AIO-IV. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MicroTrak/photos/album/1014529163/pic/list)

This is the Transceiver based on the Byonics TT4 controller, and has a 10 Watt transceiver, battery, GPS, etc, "Ready-to-go" (not in the actual sense quite yet though I am afraid) In addition to being a tracker, like the TT4, it can act as a stand-alone digipeater. It has a Bluetooth connection on its primary serial port for programming, firmware uploads, and of course, for use with a PDA or computer for mapping and/or messaging. The GPS code will have an advanced version of the feature we use in the transmitter-only AIO, but will take steps to verify that the position fix is the most accurate position the GPS can provide before allowing a transmission. Turning on the GPS and waiting for a locked signal allows us to run a regular MT-AIO for about 8 days with 2 minute check-ins,with a pack of AA batteries. Although I don't expect the transceiver to run that long (The receiver is always on) I do expect to have excellent power efficiency.

One thing we are looking at is to allow the unit (when operating as a tracker) to first send a low power, 1/2 Watt data burst, and listen to see if it was digipeated. If not, the unit will try again at high power, 10 Watts. This is still experimental, and I am not sure how it will apply when used as a digipeater. I am also not sure if the production model will use the clear-lid case (I just like to see the LED's!) Thoughts?

I have no idea on cost yet, and we hope to have a version ready to test with Lynn Deffenbaughs' APRSIS32 program soon. (If you have not seen it I suggest you take a look at it-its brilliant!)

The initial units are set up to run on battery power, but you could operate it from external power with an regulated power supply, our little power supply board might be suitable, I will have to test and verify. This will be great for airplanes, since the AIO-IV can be mounted out of site, but addressed with a Bluetooth enabled device for messaging and mapping if desired.

For SAR use, the advantage of having each tracker operate as a store and forward station for all the other units should be attractive. In Northern California, where I live the terrain is not always optimal for hitting digis! Lots of deep canyons.....

73,

Allen
VHS
AF6OF

785. Re: [SAR_APRS] MT-AIO-IV

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-07-03 16:44:37 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 782 Message: 785

Jeff,

You will have to join the Yahoo group to access the page. I can e-mail them to you directly if there is another glitch.

Allen
VHS

-----Original Message-----
From: Jeff Moore <tnetcenter@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sat, Jul 3, 2010 9:23 am
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] MT-AIO-IV

Can't access the pics!

Jeff -- KE7ACY
DCARES
Bend, Oregon

----- Original Message -----
From: vhsproducts
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 03, 2010 7:52 AM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] MT-AIO-IV

I have just uploaded a photo album for the MT AIO-IV. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MicroTrak/photos/album/1014529163/pic/list)

This is the Transceiver based on the Byonics TT4 controller, and has a 10 Watt transceiver, battery, GPS, etc, "Ready-to-go" (not in the actual sense quite yet though I am afraid) In addition to being a tracker, like the TT4, it can act as a stand-alone digipeater. It has a Bluetooth connection on its primary serial port for programming, firmware uploads, and of course, for use with a PDA or computer for mapping and/or messaging. The GPS code will have an advanced version of the feature we use in the transmitter-only AIO, but will take steps to verify that the position fix is the most accurate position the GPS can provide before allowing a transmission. Turning on the GPS and waiting for a locked signal allows us to run a regular MT-AIO for about 8 days with 2 minute check-ins,with a pack of AA batteries. Although I don't expect the transceiver to run that long (The receiver is always on) I do expect to have excellent power efficiency.

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786. Re: [SAR_APRS] MT-AIO-IV

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-07-03 16:49:58 UTC
From: Jeff Moore
Topic: 782 Message: 786

I AM a member of the SAR-APRS group.

Jeff -- KE7ACY

----- Original Message -----
From: CaptALord@...
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, July 03, 2010 9:44 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] MT-AIO-IV

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787. Re: [SAR_APRS] MT-AIO-IV

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-07-03 17:05:42 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 782 Message: 787

The photos are on the Micro-Trak Yahoo Users group. I will add them to the SAR-APRS Group if I have the permissions to do that.

Allen
VHS

-----Original Message-----
From: Jeff Moore <tnetcenter@...>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Sat, Jul 3, 2010 9:49 am
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] MT-AIO-IV

☐
I AM a member of the SAR-APRS group.

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VHS
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788. Pacific Crest Golden Packet Event

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-07-10 15:51:38 UTC
From: Barry
Topic: 788 Message: 788

At the suggestion of Bob Bruniga, WB4APR, I've created the following Yahoo Group: Pacific Crest Golden Packet Event http://groups.yahoo.com/group/pct-golden-packet/

If you have an interest in this event, please consider joining the group and sharing your information.

More info at: http://aprs.org/pct-golden-packet.html

Thanks!

Barry K3UG
CM97qw

789. APRS session at SAREX 2010 Treasure Island, Ca. 11 Sep 2010

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-08-08 03:04:50 UTC
From: k6mah
Topic: 789 Message: 789

Class description below in case you were not aware of it. Anyone planning to attend this session?

Mike Heil
California WIng CAP
Solano County SAR/OHV

Workshop 4:
Application of APRS to Support the Search Management Function - Lessons from the Field
Abstract: Automated Packet/Position Reporting System (APRS) is a technology from the ham radio community for real time position reporting. Since the early 90s, hams have experimented with reporting GPS coordinates over the ham airwaves. Technology has matured over the past 5 years to make application to search and rescue operations more reliable and feasible. This presentation will update attendees on the latest state of APRS and how it has been leveraged by Bay Area SAR teams. Topics covered will include hardware and software required, pratical application of technology, a live demonstration, and the latest application of APRS on the iPhone.

Agenda:

1) Real Time Position Reporting for Teams in the Field - Background and Intro to Technology
2) Practical Application - What Napa SAR has learned over they past 4 years
3) Live Demo of Position Reports

4) Leveraging the Internet - Use of iPhone Application to Track Field Teams Using APRS to Track your SAR Resources

790. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS session at SAREX 2010 Treasure Island, Ca. 11 Sep 2010

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-08-09 15:49:51 UTC
From: Bob Bruninga
Topic: 789 Message: 790

> Class description:...
> Abstract: Automated Packet/Position Reporting System
> (APRS) is a technology from the ham radio community
> for real time position reporting.... <snip>

No mention of text messaging....

Yes position reporting is perfect for SAR, but what people are not training for is text messaging too. APRS text messaging provides the ability to do AD-HOC comms ANYWHERE and beyond simplex range.

You can extend the range of any APRS HT (for text comms and positions) as far as you want with mobile D700/D710 radios. (I was suprised to see that the FTM-350 does not appear to digipeat?). Rnage extension of packet is far easier than setting up a voice repeater for wilderness coverage.

Yes, a mobile D700/D710 can also serve as a voice cross band repeater, but only one hop. With DIGIPEATING, the range can be extended indefinately by additional mobiles. AND ALL D700/D710 mobile should already be fully configured for always-on digipeating via TEMPn-N, so as long as there are D700's at the event, text messaging should work as far as they travel.

If every D700/710 you know of is not configured this way, why not!??? Who will help make it happen if not you.

All SAR teams have to do is use the path TEMP3-3 or so to go three hops back to HQ via ANY availalbe D700/710.

SAR teams should include text messaging (and TEMPn-N mobile digis) as a routine COMMS RANGE EXTENDER in wilderness terrain. See www.aprs.org/TEMPn-N.html

Bob, WB4APR

791. ASTRO TRACKERS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-10-11 03:30:05 UTC
From: Music Matt
Topic: 791 Message: 791

Here is a question, We use astros on the dogs, and flankers carry Garmen gps's. I want to know is there a way to use my d700 and d7 on the ASTRO frq. and transmit or repeat through crossband back to our base in instances where the trackers cant make it back to base. Or use a D7 as a tracker to show up on the astro tracking and maptech.

792. Re: [SAR_APRS] ASTRO TRACKERS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-10-12 16:00:58 UTC
From: Kevin Ratcliff
Topic: 791 Message: 792

On Sun, Oct 10, 2010 at 11:30 PM, Music Matt <projecthiker@...> wrote:
> Here is a question, We use astros on the dogs, and flankers carry Garmen gps's. I want to know is there a way to use my d700 and d7 on the ASTRO frq. and transmit or repeat through crossband back to our base in instances where the trackers cant make it back to base. Or use a D7 as a tracker to show up on the astro tracking and maptech.

As has already been suggested, to increase your range attach a base antenna to the Astro receiver. This should make a big difference.

You will not be able to use a D7 / D700 directly with the Astro because they use different over-the-air formats. However, there may be a way to use both the D7 APRS and the Astros with Xastir, which is an APRS client with lots of SAR-related features:

http://www.xastir.org/wiki/Search_and_Rescue,_(SAR)

Xastir can download track logs from Garmin GPS units. The Astro receivers store the transmitter position reports as tracks. It should be possible for Xastir to download this information and display it on-screen along with the normal APRS activity. See the Xastir mailing list posts from today for more information:

http://lists.xastir.org/pipermail/xastir/2010-October/019241.html

Kevin
KB9MQU

793. Xastir v2.0.0 has been released

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-10-26 03:18:43 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 793 Message: 793

Xastir v2.0.0 is available on SourceForge at:

http://sourceforge.net/projects/xastir

or via CVS.

This release includes several bug-fixes done in the last few months
plus the really big thing: Open Street Map support! Enjoy!

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

794. Micro-Trac AIO, Alinco dr-135 w/TNC, Dmapper and Terrain Navigator pro

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-12-01 01:34:31 UTC
From: Mike
Topic: 794 Message: 794

Our team has the setup above. Most of the time the GPS track from the AIO do not get to Terrain Navigator Pro(TNP). They are getting to dmapper and it looks like TNP is trying to update the telemetry to the open topo, but their location doesn't show up. A track file is written so we can import but I thought it was suppose to be automatic. I am sure y'all have questions for me. I didn't want to get to windy on my first post.
Any help with this issue would be greatly appreciated.

795. 2nd Annual Ohio SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2010-12-11 03:46:12 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 795 Message: 795

Ohio SAR Council presents the
2nd Annual Ohio SAR Conference
March 5-6, 2011

Topics Include:
Integration of SAR Resources - Who Are They and What Do They Do
Electronic Mapping Using Google Earth and ARC GIS Explorer
Responsibilities of Non Profit Organizations
Understanding Canine Neurophysiology
Utilizing Equine Resources for SAR
Promoting Professionalism in SAR

Panel Discussion: From the Path of Destruction: Debriefing the Millbury Tornado

Where
Maumee Bay State Park Lodge

Registration
Early registration September - December 31, 2010 - $70
Registration January - Feb. 28 - $80
After Feb. 28 - $90
To request an email which includes conference brochure and registration information please contact:

Janelle Hideg, hideg59@...
or
Nancy Vickroy, nvickroy63@...

796. 2nd Annual Ohio SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-01-03 14:13:38 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 795 Message: 796

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Janelle Hideg, hideg59@...
or
Nancy Vickroy, nvickroy63@...

797. MX146LV 2M/VHF Transmitters Back In Stock!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-01-14 22:04:19 UTC
From: Jason R
Topic: 797 Message: 797

We have just received a new batch of SRB MX146LV 2M/VHF transmitter modules. These modules are frequency agile 144-148 MHz, 350 mW output and rock-solid stable.

Please visit our site for more details and to order:

http://www.rpc-electronics.com/rf.php

Thanks!
Jason Rausch - KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

798. 2nd Annual Ohio SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-01-29 01:47:25 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 795 Message: 798

For anyone registering for the SAR conference: Please make checks out to Ohio Federation of K9 Search Teams as they are having trouble cashing the checks made out to the SAR conference. Make a note that it is for the conference.

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Janelle Hideg, hideg59@...
or
Nancy Vickroy, nvickroy63@...

799. 2nd Annual Ohio SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-01-29 02:02:19 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 795 Message: 799

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801. Question/Help map cache for xastir off-line wms server cached

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-02-22 18:42:11 UTC
From: exi_64
Topic: 801 Message: 801

Hi,

have do anyone toyed using TileCache to give a off-line map cache to xastir ? I have had alot of trouble with getting map proper.. but with some tweaking I manage to use the radar wms geo files methode to implement the use of wms map server in xastir. all this is great but allot of areas dosn`t have proper Internet cover. and just to make it harder there is a on-line download limit on some of the wms servers we use. So I am looking for a way to cache the map, and avoid any unneeded req to the on-line wms server. and I want to use it off-line when thats needed. my problem is that I down manage to find a usable way to get the wms data into the cache. and xastir re download image files if it is one bit off so that dos`t help either..

dose anyone have a suggestion ?

802. Re: [SAR_APRS] map cache for suse offline wit wms server

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-02-22 19:40:24 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 802 Message: 802

On Tue, 22 Feb 2011, exi_64 wrote:

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What sort of maps are you after? There's an entirely new sort of map caching that works for the OSM map tiles which works even if your screen size or panning is different from when you cached the tiles. You do have to go through the different zoom levels to get all the different tiles cached though. There are street maps and topo map tiles available with OSM. This requires Xastir-2.0.0 or 2.0.1.

An alternative is to download the Cloudmade Shapefile extracts and use those in Xastir, if street maps are adequate. I throw those on top of the NOAA county shapefile so that I get the land/water boundary.

Let me know the type of map you're trying to use and what area of the world you're in and perhaps I can help.

BTW: This question would be best asked on the Xastir list. Subscribe at
http://www.xastir.org

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

803. Re: map cache for suse offline wit wms server

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-02-22 21:59:01 UTC
From: exi_64
Topic: 802 Message: 803

Hi,Thanx for fast replay.
Sorry my bad I should have told you. I have great map. but my location is above the arctic circle witch make using scanned map a bit hard. I been test using a Government map service and result so fare seams to be good when it comes to aliment. my wms url is : http://openwms.statkart.no/skwms1/wms.toporaster2?SERVICE=WMS&VERSION=1.3.0&LAYERS=topografiskraster&FORMAT=image/png&CRS=CRS:84&
and is used in configuration as a WMSSERVER but refresh is disabled.

So far it work good, but is the problem of off-line use.. (NB i have a cup-el of other maps sources to but they all use the same system)

Sorry for the bad english is 22:54L been up 4 oever 18 hours working :(

did this give you sufficient information or do you want me to upload some config files.. The other map sources you mention is tested. but map is not detailed enough for SAR operations. I use xasir version 2.00 at the moment have tested 2.01 but it dissent make a different in this aspect.

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, "Curt, WE7U" <curt.we7u@...> wrote:
>
> On Tue, 22 Feb 2011, exi_64 wrote:
>
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http://www.xastir.org
>
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> Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
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> Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
> The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"
>

804. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: map cache for suse offline wit wms server

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-02-23 13:49:44 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 802 Message: 804

On Tue, 22 Feb 2011, exi_64 wrote:

> Sorry my bad I should have told you. I have great map. but my location is above the arctic circle witch make using scanned map a bit hard. I been test using a Government map service and result so fare seams to be good when it comes to aliment. my wms url is : http ://openwms.statkart.no/skwms1/wms.toporaster2?SERVICE=WMS&VERSION=1.3.0&LAYERS=topografisk raster&FORMAT=image/png&CRS=CRS:84&
> and is used in configuration as a WMSSERVER but refresh is disabled.
>
> So far it work good, but is the problem of off-line use.. (NB i have a cup-el of other maps sources to but they all use the same system)

If your only source of good maps is those raster maps, then consider using the Snapshot feature of Xastir to create your own set of offline maps. Each time you enable the snapshot feature you'll get files called "snapshot.geo" and "snapshot.png" in your ~/.xastir/tmp/ directory. You can rename those two files and drop them somewhere under your maps directory to create your own set of raster maps. Do this for the area of interest, at the zoom levels of interest, and you'll create your own set of offline maps. Remember to turn off display of all stations/objects during this so that you get the cleanest snapshots saved.

Someone with more WMS experience may be able to script such snapshots so that you can snag an entire set of them at multiple zoom levels without all the renaming the above method requires.

Does that help?

--
Curt, WE7U. <http://www.eskimo.com/~archer>
APRS: Where it's at! <http://www.xastir.org>
Lotto: A tax on people who are bad at math. - unknown
Windows: Microsoft's tax on computer illiterates. - WE7U.
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

805. RTrak-Lite Available and Shipping Now!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-03-03 23:58:33 UTC
From: Jason R
Topic: 805 Message: 805

A limited quantity of the RTrak-Lite is now available for ordering and immediate shipping! Please see our website for details and ordering links:

http://www.rpc-electronics.com/rtrak-lite.php

Thanks!
Jason Rausch - KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

806. Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-04-03 22:09:56 UTC
From: Jason R
Topic: 806 Message: 806

The RTrak-HAB is now available for pre-ordering!

We received the latest version PCB this week and was able to build up a test unit and verify operation. The tracker is working flawlessly! I big thanks goes to Barry VE6SBS for all of his hard work on testing the RTrak-HAB and helping to improve the performance!

The webpage has been updated with new pictures and a buying link has been added to the page:

The RTrak-HAB is now available for pre-order! http://www.rpc-electronics.com/rtrak-hab.php

Please direct any question to sales@...

Thanks!

Jason Rausch - Amateur Radio Callsign: KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

807. Micro-Trak RTG FA (Frequency Agile) version ready to ship!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-04-03 23:58:56 UTC
From: Allen
Topic: 807 Message: 807

I am very happy to let you know that Byonics has the new MT-RTG (FA) up on the website (http://byonics.com/mt-rtg) The new RTG looks like the old RTG (single channel version) but its totally different underneath the lid! (I posted a photo in the photo section) Byon developed a newly reinvented version of the TT3 chip with a PIC with over twice the memory. This will allow us to create new and special versions of the firmware that you will be able to load with a simple bootloader program. This will include things like a weather chip, FOX, or a sort of KISS transmitter like the TinyPack. This will allow us to easily tailor versions for different applications.

Since the new unit is frequency agile, you can program any two frequencies in the 2 Meter band. This hopefully will make our friends in Europe, Australia, and Asia, happy.

The MT-RTG-FA can selectably report two channels of on-board telemetry, which will be supported by APRS.fi graphically. The unit will monitor and report supply voltage and temperature. Support for additional telemetry will be available shortly.

Like the old RTG (which is still available) the new RTG will be shipped to you with everything "Ready-to-go"; Pre-programmed with your info. A complete package includes the 10 Watt transmitter, power/data cable, a GPS 2 magnet mount "mouse" receiver, and a magnet mount antenna. Installation takes about 15 seconds if you take your time! The only thing you may want to consider as an accessory is a null modem cable (available from Byonics or build you own) in case you want to reprogram the unit your self. A new and special version of the Configuration Software will be used for all Micro-Trak frequency agile products.

73,

Allen R. Lord
VHS/Byonics
AF6OF

808. Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-04-07 03:33:43 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 806 Message: 808

Jason,

Don't you have a test flight of the new unit coming up soon? Its about time people started building gear specifically for the balloon people, and I am sure you will make a lot of them very happy!

Allen
AF6OF

-----Original Message-----
From: Jason R <lists@...>
To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Sun, Apr 3, 2011 3:10 pm
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

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Please direct any question to sales@...

Thanks!

Jason Rausch - Amateur Radio Callsign: KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

809. Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-04-07 03:39:43 UTC
From: lists@ke4nyv.com
Topic: 806 Message: 809

Hey Allen,

Yes, actually, if I can get enough units to Canada, there will be at least four flights with the RTrak-HAB before the end of the year. We're very excited about it!

We're staying busy, but going to miss youins at Dayton this year. Hope you make a killing.

Jason Rausch - KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

--- On Wed, 4/6/11, CaptALord@... <CaptALord@...> wrote:

From: CaptALord@... <CaptALord@...>
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 11:33 PM

Jason,

Don't you have a test flight of the new unit coming up soon? Its about time people started building gear specifically for the balloon people, and I am sure you will make a lot of them very happy!

Allen

AF6OF

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason R <lists@ke4nyv.com>

To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 3, 2011 3:10 pm

Subject: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

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Please direct any question to sales@...

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Jason Rausch - Amateur Radio Callsign: KE4NYV

RPC Electronics, LLC

www.rpc-electronics.com

810. Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-04-07 10:42:57 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 806 Message: 810

Jason,

Too bad you can't make Dayton! Scott's not going either? Let us know on your test flights, It will be fun to watch.

Allen
AF6OF

-----Original Message-----
From: lists <lists@...>
To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Wed, Apr 6, 2011 8:39 pm
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

Hey Allen,

Yes, actually, if I can get enough units to Canada, there will be at least four flights with the RTrak-HAB before the end of the year. We're very excited about it!

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Jason Rausch - KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

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From: CaptALord@... <CaptALord@...>
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 11:33 PM

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AF6OF

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To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Sun, Apr 3, 2011 3:10 pm
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Thanks!

Jason Rausch - Amateur Radio Callsign: KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

811. Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-04-07 14:26:45 UTC
From: lists@ke4nyv.com
Topic: 806 Message: 811

Scott will be there. I think he is going to have the big crew with him this year, so the booths might have been a little full anyways :o)

Like I said, more time and money to devote to new products!

Jason Rausch - KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

--- On Thu, 4/7/11, CaptALord@... <CaptALord@...> wrote:

From: CaptALord@... <CaptALord@aol.com>
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011, 6:42 AM

Jason,

Too bad you can't make Dayton! Scott's not going either? Let us know on your test flights, It will be fun to watch.

Allen

AF6OF

-----Original Message-----

From: lists <lists@...>

To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>

Sent: Wed, Apr 6, 2011 8:39 pm

Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

Hey Allen,

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RPC Electronics, LLC

www.rpc-electronics.com

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From: CaptALord@... <CaptALord@...>

Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 11:33 PM

Jason,

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Allen

AF6OF

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From: Jason R <lists@...>

To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 3, 2011 3:10 pm

Subject: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

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Jason Rausch - Amateur Radio Callsign: KE4NYV

RPC Electronics, LLC

www.rpc-electronics.com

812. Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-04-07 14:37:20 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 806 Message: 812

Yup! The Byonics booth is pretty tight quarters too: All those zillions of radio specific cables! We (or at least I) will plan on having a beer for you. We will be showing and selling our new frequency agile RTG, so I am expecting a lot of European customers, and the only EU language I can even began to speak is German.....and not very well. Should be a challenge, but most Europeans speak English too it seems. and hopefully, a couple of other new products.

Allen

AF6OF

-----Original Message-----
From: lists <lists@...>
To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Thu, Apr 7, 2011 7:30 am
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

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Like I said, more time and money to devote to new products!

Jason Rausch - KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

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From: CaptALord@... <CaptALord@...>
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011, 6:42 AM

Jason,

Too bad you can't make Dayton! Scott's not going either? Let us know on your test flights, It will be fun to watch.

Allen
AF6OF

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To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Wed, Apr 6, 2011 8:39 pm
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

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To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 11:33 PM

Jason,

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AF6OF

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To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Sun, Apr 3, 2011 3:10 pm
Subject: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

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Please direct any question to sales@...

Thanks!

Jason Rausch - Amateur Radio Callsign: KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

813. Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-04-07 14:43:55 UTC
From: lists@ke4nyv.com
Topic: 806 Message: 813

Das klink gut aus! Du sollest sehr gut machen. Deustch ist nicht so schlect, aber dass ist wann du es mehr kannst benutzen. :o)

Jason Rausch - KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

--- On Thu, 4/7/11, CaptALord@... <CaptALord@...> wrote:

From: CaptALord@aol.com <CaptALord@...>
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011, 10:37 AM

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Sent: Thu, Apr 7, 2011 7:30 am

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From: CaptALord@... <CaptALord@...>

Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2011, 6:42 AM

Jason,

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Allen

AF6OF

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From: lists <lists@...>

To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>

Sent: Wed, Apr 6, 2011 8:39 pm

Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

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From: CaptALord@... <CaptALord@...>

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Allen

AF6OF

-----Original Message-----

From: Jason R <lists@...>

To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>

Sent: Sun, Apr 3, 2011 3:10 pm

Subject: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

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Please direct any question to sales@rpc-electronics.com

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Jason Rausch - Amateur Radio Callsign: KE4NYV

RPC Electronics, LLC

www.rpc-electronics.com

814. Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-04-07 14:44:40 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 806 Message: 814

I'll be there, same 2 booths as last year, but the third booth in the block has been assigned to someone else. Couldn't justify getting the whole block myself.

Scott
N1VG

On 4/7/2011 3:42 AM, CaptALord@... wrote:
>
>
>
> Jason,
>
> Too bad you can't make Dayton! Scott's not going either? Let us know on
> your test flights, It will be fun to watch.
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> Allen
> AF6OF
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: lists <lists@...>
> To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
> Sent: Wed, Apr 6, 2011 8:39 pm
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for
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>
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> Jason Rausch - KE4NYV
> RPC Electronics, LLC
> www.rpc-electronics.com <http://www.rpc-electronics.com>
>
> --- On *Wed, 4/6/11, CaptALord@... <mailto:CaptALord@...>
> /<CaptALord@... <mailto:CaptALord@...>>/* wrote:
>
>

> From: CaptALord@... <mailto:CaptALord@...>
> <CaptALord@... <mailto:CaptALord@...>>
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available
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> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
> Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 11:33 PM
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> Allen
> AF6OF
>
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>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jason R <lists@... <mailto:lists@...>>
> To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> <mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>>
> Sent: Sun, Apr 3, 2011 3:10 pm
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for
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> Jason Rausch - Amateur Radio Callsign: KE4NYV
> RPC Electronics, LLC
> www.rpc-electronics.com <http://www.rpc-electronics.com>
>
>
>

>

815. Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-04-07 17:21:35 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 806 Message: 815

Scott,

Cool! I have been wanting to get a peak at that SSTV camera you make, so I will have to make some time free to come and see you!

Allen

-----Original Message-----
From: Scott Miller <scott@...>
To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Thu, Apr 7, 2011 7:44 am
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for Pre-Ordering!

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N1VG

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> /<CaptALord@... <mailto:CaptALord@...>>/* wrote:
>
>
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> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available
> for Pre-Ordering!
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
> Date: Wednesday, April 6, 2011, 11:33 PM
>
> Jason,
>
> Don't you have a test flight of the new unit coming up soon? Its
> about time people started building gear specifically for the balloon
> people, and I am sure you will make a lot of them very happy!
>
> Allen
> AF6OF
>
>
>
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Jason R <lists@... <mailto:lists@...>>
> To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> <mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>>
> Sent: Sun, Apr 3, 2011 3:10 pm
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] Flag this message RTrak-HAB Now Available for
> Pre-Ordering!
>
> The RTrak-HAB is now available for pre-ordering!
>
> We received the latest version PCB this week and was able to build
> up a test unit and verify operation. The tracker is working
> flawlessly! I big thanks goes to Barry VE6SBS for all of his hard
> work on testing the RTrak-HAB and helping to improve the performance!
>
> The webpage has been updated with new pictures and a buying link has
> been added to the page:
>
> The RTrak-HAB is now available for pre-order!

> http://www.rpc-electronics.com/rtrak-hab.php
>
> Please direct any question to sales@...
>
> Thanks!
>
> Jason Rausch - Amateur Radio Callsign: KE4NYV
> RPC Electronics, LLC
> www.rpc-electronics.com <http://www.rpc-electronics.com>
>
>
>
>

816. 3rd Annual SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-09-15 17:26:55 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 816 Message: 816

Save The Date!

3rd Annual Ohio SAR Conference
March 2-4, 2012
Ohio Fire Academy
Reynoldsburg, Ohio

Conference schedule and other details will be sent at a later date.

817. RE: [SAR_APRS] 3rd Annual SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-09-15 17:42:39 UTC
From: Bob Bruninga
Topic: 816 Message: 817

> 3rd Annual Ohio SAR Conference
> March 2-4, 2012
> Ohio Fire Academy
> Reynoldsburg, Ohio

One-way SAR Trackers have great value, but someone needs to show the whole value of APRS to the SAR mission.

Four areas come to mind:

* Texting for keeping teams consistently informed in the field of updated information.
* Objects to and from the field to mark things and to give guidance
* The value of portable digipeaters to provide end-to-end connectivity in support of operations
* The value of 2-way trackers and attached GPS displays for situational awareness of teams to EACH OTHER's positions.

Think outside the box.

Bob, WB4APR

818. RE: [SAR_APRS] 3rd Annual SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-09-17 04:45:37 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 816 Message: 818

The thing you neglected in your suggestions Bob is that most SAR folks are not Hams. A dedicated Ham who is trying to make APRS work in SAR is lucky enough to have a non-ham SAR person agree to even allow a tracker to placed in their SAR pack. That alone is success in getting APRS into SAR activities. They think even a TH-D72A is too big and too heavy to go into their pack! At least when the well trained Ham can be in SAR base and use the received positions to better determine where that SAR team is and how well they cover their assigned square. As a result SAR base can via SAR radio redirect that team to a more desirable location without having to wait for that team to return to SAR base.

Although I failed in my many years of trying to integrate APRS into our local SAR activities, I am still convinced the concept will save time and lives. Sure all four of Bob's suggestions would be great and make searches be more successful but they are not realistic during real SAR missions. I could never convince my local IC's that they even wanted to use APRS because they are local cops who are not computer geeks, so they just shunned the concept. Our Sheriff's Dept Chief in charge of our county's SAR activities finally wound up firing me, a volunteer, since I was too overbearing to him and his operations. Very unfortunate but the reality of life in the real world.

Believe me, I tried. I even gave APRS demos and classes at our WA SAR Conferences for a number of years till they wore me out..... The only time SAR was used during our SAR activities was if, and only if, I was in SAR Base running the APRS operation. I just could not get others interested in learning APRS well enough so that they could relieve me in SAR base.....

So keep on trying to educate your local SAR groups and SAR management that APRS will save time and lives in SAR activities, but go slow and don't try to force the high tech issues on those who are not willing to accept them. Someday, they will open their eyes and wonder why they did not use APRS sooner..... In the mean time, I will keep trying to help those SAR groups who ask for help. BTW our county's EOC still has the full time APRS station I set up there 15+ years ago and our ComVan still operates the tracker I installed there over 10 years ago, so at least I know when and where a SAR activity is in progress.....

Herb, KB7UVC
NW APRS Group, West Sound Coordinator
Our WEB Site: http://www.nwaprs.info

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]
> On Behalf Of Bob Bruninga
> Sent: Thursday, September 15, 2011 10:43 AM

> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: RE: [SAR_APRS] 3rd Annual SAR Conference
>
> > 3rd Annual Ohio SAR Conference
> > March 2-4, 2012
> > Ohio Fire Academy
> > Reynoldsburg, Ohio
>
> One-way SAR Trackers have great value, but someone needs to show the whole
> value of APRS to the SAR mission.
>
> Four areas come to mind:
>
> * Texting for keeping teams consistently informed in the field of updated
> information.
> * Objects to and from the field to mark things and to give guidance
> * The value of portable digipeaters to provide end-to-end connectivity in
> support of operations
> * The value of 2-way trackers and attached GPS displays for situational
> awareness of teams to EACH OTHER's positions.
>
> Think outside the box.
>
> Bob, WB4APR
>

819. Re: 3rd Annual SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-09-17 13:54:56 UTC
From: Dave
Topic: 816 Message: 819

Hi,

I'm reading this thread with great interest and I can understand the problems associated with APRS & SAR.

In the UK Mountain Rescue England & Wales, some teams use a programme called MRMap - www.mrmap.org.uk - this is a program written by a Lake District MR member and using the Simoco radio equipment they have allows the GPS microphone to transmit the GPS data, silently, across the SAR frequencies we are licences to use.

This is then received in base or in the Control, Command & Comms vehicle on a Pc running the program to decode the incoming GPS data, and then displays it on a map, showing the call sign of the received signal and also the location of the last transmission.

All this was started many years ago by MR members who were also amateur licenced folk, using APRS on 70 MHz - I think ??

It's proved very successful and is being used in HeliMed Air ambulances, in the north west of England, and there is talk about it appearing in the SAR Sea Kings of the military as well..

If you want to have a looks go to the website, join the forum and ask as many questions as you want :) we're a friendly bunch..

Regards
Dave

820. Nationwide SAR communications help

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-09-19 20:15:08 UTC
From: Jim Walters N4SAR
Topic: 820 Message: 820
Attachments: 3 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

KKids Search Team page <http://www.klaaskids.org/search_center.htm>

KlaasKids Foundation sponsors a national Search Team (full complement of searchers, K-9s, case workers, SAR managers, etc) that is based here in Pensacola, Florida but travels to organize and manage searches throughout the US and Canada. The most current, publicized case is the search for Michelle Le in Hayward, CA.

The Foundation <http://www.klaaskids.org> is in the process of setting up regional Search resource centers across the U.S. to reduce the time it takes to implement a missing child search.

The team currently uses GARMIN FRS radios with GPS tracking, and independent GPS Loggers to communicate and document search areas.
We need a longer range radio system that is not tied to our base location, but can be used legally wherever we travel in the US.
So far, the only system I have found that will allow us to do this is the Multi-Use Radio System (MURS). MURS has its power limitations, has only 5 channels and may not use repeaters, but it does allow for a base antenna to 60 ft (or 20 ft above structure) which should give adequate coverage for limited search areas..

Since search is the day-to-day function of the foundation, use of Amateur Radio is prohibited _where other means are available_:

? 97.113Prohibited transmissions.

(a) No amateur station shall transmit:

(5) Communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably be furnished alternatively through other radio services.

Other than Amateur Radio where other systems may not work (hilly areas, etc), what do other traveling teams use?

What do the FEMA Task Force teams use and can it be used by other teams when the FTFs are not deployed?

Thanks

Jim Walters, N4SAR
Pensacola, Florida
N4SAR@...

Contact Me LinkedIn <http://[>

821. Re: [SAR_APRS] Nationwide SAR communications help

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-09-19 21:00:42 UTC
From: Lynn W. Deffenbaugh (Mr)
Topic: 820 Message: 821

On 9/19/2011 4:15 PM, Jim Walters N4SAR wrote:
> Since search is the day-to-day function of the foundation, use of
> Amateur Radio is prohibited _where other means are available_:
>
> ? 97.113Prohibited transmissions.
>
> (a) No amateur station shall transmit:
>
> (5) Communications, on a regular basis, which could reasonably
> be furnished alternatively through other radio services.
>

It may be the day-to-day function, but I would interpret "regular basis"
as on a day-in-and-day-out basis at all locations.

Lynn (D) - KJ4ERJ - Just trying to understand the issues and the language

822. [SAR_APRS] Nationwide SAR communications help

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-09-19 21:31:43 UTC
From: Chris Keezer
Topic: 820 Message: 822

I would say that using Amateur radio would not be going against the regulation. You are not using the radio to conduct business you are using them for safety. The other thing is there are ARES/RACES groups that cover most areas in the US and some of Canada that could do communication support I know that many ARES/RACES groups do this.

Chris Keezer

KC9NVV

Polk County WI ARES/ RACES EC

Polk County WI Skywarn Coordinator

KC9NVV@...

KC9NVV@...

KC9NVV@...

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823. Re: Nationwide SAR communications help

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-09-19 22:19:26 UTC
From: Jim Walters N4SAR
Topic: 820 Message: 823
Attachments: 3 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Before you all start telling me to use the "National SAR Frequency" of
155.160:

I have seen references to 155.160 as the "National SAR frequency" but
have also seen quite a bit of "ain't so".
This is what the DHS National Interoperability Field Operations Guide
(NIFOG) says:

VHF Public Safety Mutual Aid and Common Channels
Channel (MHz) Usage Wideband ID Narrowband ID Note
155.1600 Search and Rescue Common SAR WFMSAR NFMSAR Not designated
by FCC
/a*vailability varies.**/

* Emphasis is mine.

In several jurisdictions, 155.160 is assigned to other emergency
services. It is a ambulance and EMS channel in Florida and several other
states.
Our local SAR team (Escambia Search and Rescue) is licensed on another
common PS channel, 155.280.
From my research, (mostly GOOGLE of 155.160) it appears that 155.160 is
only a SAR Common in those _states _where that _state _licensed it as
such. One must use someone's license to operate in the Public Safety band.
We intend to have it available, along with several other common and
NIFOG designated interoperability frequencies, but it cannot be used
everywhere. To my knowledge (30+ years in SAR and ARES communications),
the FCC NEVER reserved or designated 155.160 as a "/National /SAR
Frequency".

Also, GMRS now is designated as a Personal radio service and each family
or individual must be licensed, for a fee. There is no longer an
"itinerant Business Band channel".

MURS is the new Citizens' Band radio on 151 and 154 MHz. No license
required, and data is allowed (for Automatic Position Reporting Systems).

On 9/19/2011 15:15, Jim Walters N4SAR wrote:
>
> KKids Search Team page <http://www.klaaskids.org/search_center.htm>
>
>
> KlaasKids Foundation sponsors a national Search Team (full complement
> of searchers, K-9s, case workers, SAR managers, etc) that is based
> here in Pensacola, Florida but travels to organize and manage searches
> throughout the US and Canada. The most current, publicized case is

> the search for Michelle Le in Hayward, CA.
>
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> up regional Search resource centers across the U.S. to reduce the time
> it takes to implement a missing child search.
>
>
> The team currently uses GARMIN FRS radios with GPS tracking, and
> independent GPS Loggers to communicate and document search areas.
> We need a longer range radio system that is not tied to our base
> location, but can be used legally wherever we travel in the US.
> So far, the only system I have found that will allow us to do this is
> the Multi-Use Radio System (MURS). MURS has its power limitations,
> has only 5 channels and may not use repeaters, but it does allow for a
> base antenna to 60 ft (or 20 ft above structure) which should give
> adequate coverage for limited search areas..
>
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> Amateur Radio is prohibited _where other means are available_:
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> be furnished alternatively through other radio services.
>
>
> Other than Amateur Radio where other systems may not work (hilly
> areas, etc), what do other traveling teams use?
>
> What do the FEMA Task Force teams use and can it be used by other
> teams when the FTFs are not deployed?
>
> Thanks
>
> Jim Walters, N4SAR
> Pensacola, Florida
> N4SAR@...
>
> Contact Me LinkedIn <http://[>

824. Re: [SAR_APRS] Nationwide SAR communications help

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-09-19 23:20:29 UTC
From: Jardy Dawson
Topic: 820 Message: 824

Ham radio comes in with interoperability with other groups, allows use of repeaters when public safety does not, more power (and range) than other radio services, and coverage where cell phones may not work. So 'other' means may not be always available.

Jardy Dawson
KE7FHH Ham Radio

Sent by my... oh who gives a rip anyway. It won't impress anyone, and if the keyboard and screen are so small I make mistakes while I use it, DEAL WITH IT!!
(Those signatures CAN be changed, you know!!)

From: Chris Keezer <kc9nvv@...>
>To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Monday, September 19, 2011 2:31 PM
>Subject: [SAR_APRS] Nationwide SAR communications help
>
>
>
>I would say that using Amateur radio would not be going against the regulation. You are not using the radio to conduct business you are using them for safety. The other thing is there are ARES/RACES groups that cover most areas in the US and some of Canada that could do communication support I know that many ARES/RACES groups do this.
>
>
>Chris Keezer
>KC9NVV
>Polk County WI ARES/ RACES EC
>Polk County WI Skywarn Coordinator
>KC9NVV@...
>KC9NVV@...
>KC9NVV@...
>
>
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>
>

825. New to APRS - hardware question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-23 02:24:03 UTC
From: Charles L. Sparke
Topic: 825 Message: 825

Charles Sparke, KC7JKJ, Lovelock, NV here.

I've been interested in APRS tracking since I first heard about it years ago but wasn't sure where the technology was as far as the base maps for the positions and tracks to overlay on so I asked another Ham about it a week ago. He showed me the aprs.fi webpage and his vehicle (and his wife's) current locations on it. I've got the bug now to get my own hardware setup.

For a basic tracking setup, I'm looking at Byonics Micro-Trak RTG FA like the other Ham had. He also suggested a Kantronics KPC+ for a TNC for my radios to interface with the computer. I'm looking at that one or the Byonics Tiny Track 4 as options and would be interested in pros and cons for each. Price is close enough not to be an issue.

My real question here is on the hardware connection end: both of the above TNC's have a DB25 port to comm with computer. Almost no new laptops come with even the DB9 let alone especially the DB25 - only USB ports. Are the DB25-to-USB converters out there working with these TNC's (Kantronics and Tiny Track 4) ? Usually the DB25-to-USB are doing the same thing as a DB25-to-DB9 adapter - dropping out "unneeded" pins. Are they working out okay? I want to use a laptop as I'm in Search and Rescue and Civil Air Patrol and need the portability.

Thanks in advance.

826. Re: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-23 01:38:10 UTC
From: Lynn W. Deffenbaugh (Mr)
Topic: 825 Message: 826

You can get a KPC-3+ for approximately the same price as a TT4? Do you mind sharing your source?

Also, you might want to look at APRSISCE/32 (http://aprsisce.wikidot.com/start) as a possible client for the RF interfaces for APRS. aprs.fi won't help you out there.

Lynn (D) - KJ4ERJ - Author of APRSISCE for Windows Mobile and Win32

On 10/22/2011 10:24 PM, Charles L. Sparke wrote:
>
>
> Charles Sparke, KC7JKJ, Lovelock, NV here.
>
> I've been interested in APRS tracking since I first heard about it
> years ago but wasn't sure where the technology was as far as the base
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> these TNC's (Kantronics and Tiny Track 4) ? Usually the DB25-to-USB
> are doing the same thing as a DB25-to-DB9 adapter - dropping out
> "unneeded" pins. Are they working out okay? I want to use a laptop
> as I'm in Search and Rescue and Civil Air Patrol and need the portability.
>
> Thanks in advance.
>
>
>

827. Re: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-23 02:36:58 UTC
From: DaveN roadfacts.com
Topic: 825 Message: 827

Charles,
I have used a variety of serial to usb adapters with good success. The current unit I have hooked up is a "TRENDnet TU-S9"
Dave W7PDQ
www.dmapper.com

----- Original Message -----
From: Charles L. Sparke
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 7:24 PM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question

Charles Sparke, KC7JKJ, Lovelock, NV here.

I've been interested in APRS tracking since I first heard about it years ago but wasn't sure where the technology was as far as the base maps for the positions and tracks to overlay on so I asked another Ham about it a week ago. He showed me the aprs.fi webpage and his vehicle (and his wife's) current locations on it. I've got the bug now to get my own hardware setup.

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My real question here is on the hardware connection end: both of the above TNC's have a DB25 port to comm with computer. Almost no new laptops come with even the DB9 let alone especially the DB25 - only USB ports. Are the DB25-to-USB converters out there working with these TNC's (Kantronics and Tiny Track 4) ? Usually the DB25-to-USB are doing the same thing as a DB25-to-DB9 adapter - dropping out "unneeded" pins. Are they working out okay? I want to use a laptop as I'm in Search and Rescue and Civil Air Patrol and need the portability.

Thanks in advance.

828. Re: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-23 06:20:09 UTC
From: CP140
Topic: 825 Message: 828

There's a couple things to consider...

Are you going to use APRS while driving your mobile around town, while hiking up and down the hills with SAR, sitting at a base location doing comms work, or aboard a CAP aircraft? I would argue that each of those four scenarios might call for a different set of of equipment.
 I've jumped through some of the same hoops, so I'll share pass along my thoughts here...

A Kantronics KPC3+ will run around $200.
A Microtrack 4 runs around $75 assembled.

The KPC3+ is a solid device, runs from a fairly wide rance of DC voltages, but is a little heavier than the Microtrack.

If you already have a GPS with a data port and a 2m mobile with a data port, the Microtrack or KPC3+ might be a better option than the RTGFA....

You say you work with CAP and SAR.... I fly with the Canadian version of CAP (CASARA) and toss the combination of....

....Garmin Etrex, 2m HT, Tigertronics TM1(+)....

..... into the search aircraft with me... it works pretty well to feed aircraft positions back to the aprs.fi network and gives me a hand held GPS to use should I need it. The TM1+ also has 10 user selectable configurations of symbols/beacon rates that can selected on the fly without the need to hook it back up to a computer...but it's a dumb tracker... no APRS beacon receive on it.

If you're out in the field with SAR or at a remote site with CAP, you may not have internet feed.... then aprs.fi is not going to be useful in real time.

An HT with APRS funtionality (e.g. VX8/ THD-72A/ 92AD) might be a better all round solution.... light enough to carry on foot, aboard a search aircraft (with external rubber duck antenna suction-cupped into the back window of the aircraft) or running mobile to an external magmount.... and it can receive APRS beacons as well.

Add to that a Tinytrack 4, laptop running UIView (with maps of course) and a 2m mobile and you're now capable of tracking in real time and acting as a digipeater for field units with no reliance on an internet feed while you sit on the ground at search headquarters....

I guess the bottom line is that as long as the equipment meets your needs and functions well, then there is no reason to worry.

As for the cabling and connectors..... there are a bunch of USB to serial converters out there. Some work better than others.

Some of them are sensitive to RF.... the more robust (and therefore more expensive) versions seem to work better...

And yes... the USB to DB-9 to DB-25 combination of adapters/converters works just fine. I use that same sort of arrangement to do packet via my KPC3+ and netbook.

Regards
VA7HYD

From: Charles L. Sparke <clsnv@sbcglobal.net>
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Sent: Saturday, October 22, 2011 7:24:03 PM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question

Charles Sparke, KC7JKJ, Lovelock, NV here.

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Thanks in advance.

829. Re: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-23 09:49:04 UTC
From: Bob Burns W9RXR
Topic: 825 Message: 829

At 02:20 AM 10/23/2011, CP140 wrote:
>An HT with APRS funtionality (e.g. VX8/ THD-72A/ 92AD)...

Among the Yaesu VX-8 series, the VX-8GR seems to be the best choice since it has a built-in GPS receiver. However, none of the VX-8s allow for external access to the TNC in the radio. That means they can only be used as APRS trackers and can't be connected to a computer to run an APRS client program or use the TNC as just a packet TNC.

The Kenwood TH-D72 does allow external access to the TNC.

The Icom IC-92AD does not do APRS. Icom has no radios with built-in APRS functionality. Some of their D-Star radios support "DPRS", but that's not APRS.

>Add to that a Tinytrack 4, laptop running UIView (with maps of
>course) and a 2m mobile and you're now capable of tracking in real
>time and acting as a digipeater for field units with no reliance on
>an internet feed while you sit on the ground at search headquarters.

In addition to the Byonics TinyTrak4, the Argent Data Tracker2 line, specifically the OT2m, has similar features to the TT4. The Tracker2 firmware is fully developed and has been in use for several years, not still in "alpha" as the TT4 firmware is. And the Tracker2 firmware has KISS built-in so it doesn't require a firmware download to switch to KISS mode. Argent has an OT3 in development which will have built-in USB support (no serial cable required) and more memory space than the OT2m. The Tracker2 is also available as a T2-135 board which mounts inside an Alinco DR-135T 50 watt mobile radio. This makes for a self-contained mobile or base unit or digipeater.

On the software side, UI-View is a great APRS client program and is still well supported by its users. However, the author died a few years ago and development of the program stopped at that time. APRSIS/32 is a newcomer among Windows APRS clients, but it is currently being developed and is equal to or better than UI-View. I was once a confirmed UI-View user, but I have switched to APRSIS/32.

>As for the cabling and connectors..... there are a bunch of USB to
>serial converters out there. Some work better than others.

Those with the FTDI chipset seem to work the best for most amateur radio applications.

Bob...

830. Re: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-23 13:23:33 UTC
From: Bob Bruninga
Topic: 825 Message: 830

> I've been interested in APRS tracking since I first
> heard about it years ago..

Generally, APRS is not a "tracking" service! It is a network of like-minded hams IN 2-way COMMUNICATION with each other in a network of shared interest. It is an INFO DISTRIBUTION system providing the mobile operator a DISPLAY of what is going on in Ham Radio around him and he can be contacted by anyone nearby and be a participant in a net.

The last thing many of us like to see is another routine dumb tracker, with the lights on and nobody home. These one-way trackers drive around, and cannot be contacted, they are transmitting on our netwrok, often with bad settings, and CANNOT BE CONTACTED to change things. They are blabbering but not listening.

Now, this is perfectly fine for EVENTS and SAR and other local activities where everyone knows everyone and has other means of IMMEDIATE CONTACT.

But, otherwise, generally, this
TX-Only-Hey-Look-at-me*but*don't*try*to*contact*me*I'm*not*listening mode of operation is not appreciated.

> I've got the bug now to get my own hardware setup.

Great! Get one that can send and receive messages and has a heads-up display so you can see what others around you are saying to you in this net you are joining.

> I want to use a laptop as I'm in Search and Rescue and
> Civil Air Patrol and need the portability.

Great. But do consider APRS as a two-way communicatisno network. Texting between participants can provide a wealth of improved performance as an adjunct to voice in these events. One-way TX only devices are not welcome except during specal events, SAR and other limited and LOCAL activities.

Please see all of the missconceptions about APRS:

http://aprs.org/APRS-tactical.html

Good two-way devices are any of the 8 Kenwood and Yaesu APRS radios, or he TT4 Tiney trackers with displays or the YAGtracker, or Opentracker2 with a texting GPS, etc.

Thanks, Bob, WB4APR

831. Re: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-23 17:14:50 UTC
From: DaveN roadfacts.com
Topic: 825 Message: 831

The TT<4> is a 2 way device http://byonics.com/tinytrak4/ unlike previous older versions.

I have a Yaesu VX-8GR that includes all the tracking, messaging, and gps within the radio. While it will work better using an antenna with more gain, the messaging, like many other "all in one" APRS capable radios is not the easiest to work unless using one that has the ability to connect to an external keyboard style interface.

Maybe someday we will be able to talk to a voice recognition capable radio and it will type the text message for you.

Dave W7PDQ

----- Original Message -----
From: "Bob Bruninga " <wb4apr@...>
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 6:23 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question

>> I've been interested in APRS tracking since I first
>> heard about it years ago..
>
> Generally, APRS is not a "tracking" service! It is a network of
> like-minded hams IN 2-way COMMUNICATION with each other in a network of
> shared interest. It is an INFO DISTRIBUTION system providing the mobile
> operator a DISPLAY of what is going on in Ham Radio around him and he can
> be contacted by anyone nearby and be a participant in a net.
>
> The last thing many of us like to see is another routine dumb tracker,
> with the lights on and nobody home. These one-way trackers drive around,
> and cannot be contacted, they are transmitting on our netwrok, often with
> bad settings, and CANNOT BE CONTACTED to change things. They are
> blabbering but not listening.
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> Now, this is perfectly fine for EVENTS and SAR and other local activities
> where everyone knows everyone and has other means of IMMEDIATE CONTACT.
>
> But, otherwise, generally, this
> TX-Only-Hey-Look-at-me*but*don't*try*to*contact*me*I'm*not*listening mode
> of operation is not appreciated.
>
>> I've got the bug now to get my own hardware setup.
>
> Great! Get one that can send and receive messages and has a heads-up
> display so you can see what others around you are saying to you in this

> net you are joining.
>
>> I want to use a laptop as I'm in Search and Rescue and
>> Civil Air Patrol and need the portability.
>
> Great. But do consider APRS as a two-way communicatisno network. Texting
> between participants can provide a wealth of improved performance as an
> adjunct to voice in these events. One-way TX only devices are not welcome
> except during specal events, SAR and other limited and LOCAL activities.
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> Please see all of the missconceptions about APRS:
>
> http://aprs.org/APRS-tactical.html
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> Good two-way devices are any of the 8 Kenwood and Yaesu APRS radios, or he
> TT4 Tiney trackers with displays or the YAGtracker, or Opentracker2 with a
> texting GPS, etc.
>
> Thanks, Bob, WB4APR
>
>
>
> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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>

832. APRS - Info Distribution System

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-23 19:50:22 UTC
From: WD8ARZ
Topic: 832 Message: 832

Thank you Bob, have been pushing your message too, and the need doesn't seem to die out ... hi hi

Due to my interest in some of the APRS activities, my wife will frequently drive the trips so I can play.... hi hi

What are your thoughts on the Smart Phone usage of Aprs? I use -10 for the smart phone, -9 for the mobile, and -5 for my Winmor activities on HF (straight call for MarsAle on hf http://hflink.net/). I ran both the Smart Phone and the Mobile gear on APRS last trip and found it an interesting combination.

When I did not have a radio path to relay my APRS signals, which is frequent for large stretches in Indians, Kentucky and Tennessee, the Smart Phone (Epic 4G on Sprint) kept me posted on line much more frequently. At times the mobile would have links and the Smart Phone would not. Of course those just monitoring the radio side of APRS would not get the status from the Smart Phone. But the internet connections should both, so some might need to be aware of that. It was rare that a aprs report from one would match the timing, so it wasn't unusual for them to not track well, even though both are in the same mobile. Part of the tracking for that is due to some times not having either unit do precision reports due to stops and not wanting to get ripped off ... hi hi

On trips my wife and I love looking at the APRS WX stations in our travel direction, the local activities being announced, and the messages from time to time my friends and I use to stay in touch .... via APRS.

Last trip I ran my TM-D700 Two meter / 440 FM mobile with APRS. Easy interface to the AvMap G5 for GPS and Navigation Displays that includes APRS display / tracking. No Computer required to interface these two items. D700 version even allows for a keyboard to input text directly rather than use the menu for alpha / numeric entry of the message. Of course I use 100hz to quite the receive, but look for and call stations I encounter while traveling. Always call those that break the 100hz operation. The TH-D7AG hasn't seen APRS in a while, but has been used too.

AvMap G5 Navigator has built-in highly sensitive 20 channel Sirf 3 GPS engine, has a ultra bright, non-glaring, 5 inch, TFT Touch Screen, and comes with cable to interface to the Kenwood D700 / D710. Love seeing those APRS stations
on the display map!

Sweet when a received APRS message is voice read out / announced while driving.

Any thoughts on the best way to provide Geiger counter output data over APRS? I have two stations reporting Geiger readings to two different mapping systems. One in South Bend, IN and the other in Murfreesboro, TN. Plan on using an Inspector Alert while mobile one of these days reporting to those map sites while on a trip. Might do an internet feed too as some times these mobile trips by some detect trucks with cargo that are 'hot' and easy to detect .... but that's another story.
http://www.radiationnetwork.com/
http://www.blackcatsystems.com/RadMap/map.html

73 from Bill - WD8ARZ

----- Original Message -----
From: "Bob Bruninga " <wb4apr@...>
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 9:23 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question

>> I've been interested in APRS tracking since I first
>> heard about it years ago..
>
> Generally, APRS is not a "tracking" service! It is a network of
> like-minded hams IN 2-way COMMUNICATION with each other in a network of
> shared interest. It is an INFO DISTRIBUTION system providing the mobile
> operator a DISPLAY of what is going on in Ham Radio around him and he can
> be contacted by anyone nearby and be a participant in a net.
>
> The last thing many of us like to see is another routine dumb tracker,
> with the lights on and nobody home. These one-way trackers drive around,
> and cannot be contacted, they are transmitting on our netwrok, often with
> bad settings, and CANNOT BE CONTACTED to change things. They are
> blabbering but not listening.
>
> Now, this is perfectly fine for EVENTS and SAR and other local activities
> where everyone knows everyone and has other means of IMMEDIATE CONTACT.
>
> But, otherwise, generally, this
> TX-Only-Hey-Look-at-me*but*don't*try*to*contact*me*I'm*not*listening mode
> of operation is not appreciated.
>
>> I've got the bug now to get my own hardware setup.
>
> Great! Get one that can send and receive messages and has a heads-up
> display so you can see what others around you are saying to you in this
> net you are joining.
>
>> I want to use a laptop as I'm in Search and Rescue and
>> Civil Air Patrol and need the portability.
>
> Great. But do consider APRS as a two-way communicatisno network. Texting
> between participants can provide a wealth of improved performance as an
> adjunct to voice in these events. One-way TX only devices are not welcome

> except during specal events, SAR and other limited and LOCAL activities.
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> Please see all of the missconceptions about APRS:
>
> http://aprs.org/APRS-tactical.html
>
> Good two-way devices are any of the 8 Kenwood and Yaesu APRS radios, or he
> TT4 Tiney trackers with displays or the YAGtracker, or Opentracker2 with a
> texting GPS, etc.
>
> Thanks, Bob, WB4APR

833. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS - Info Distribution System

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-23 20:23:30 UTC
From: Bob Bruninga
Topic: 832 Message: 833

Re Smartphone APRS contact, yes, the -10 is the correct symbol. I was really impressed this weeekend by a CAP Balloon launch by a new ham. For backup, he put his Android phone on the balloon with a script to update its position periodically. Worked perfectly! Fortunately the APRS and the final UHF 433 MHz beacon all worked and despite landing in tall trees, the payload was sitting on the ground with the camera in horizontal position. Perfeect landing.

Re Geiger counters. YES, we have a protpcol for it, it is just an extra few characters in the WX format. I'd have to look it up to see the details. Something like Xxxxx...

Bob, WB4APR

---- Original message ----
>Date: Sun, 23 Oct 2011 15:50:22 -0400
>From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com (on behalf of "WD8ARZ" <wd8arz@...>)
>Subject: [SAR_APRS] APRS - Info Distribution System
>To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
>
>Thank you Bob, have been pushing your message too, and the need doesn't seem
>to die out ... hi hi
>
>Due to my interest in some of the APRS activities, my wife will frequently
>drive the trips so I can play.... hi hi
>
>What are your thoughts on the Smart Phone usage of Aprs? I use -10 for the
>smart phone, -9 for the mobile, and -5 for my Winmor activities on HF
>(straight call for MarsAle on hf http://hflink.net/). I ran both the Smart
>Phone and the Mobile gear on APRS last trip and found it an interesting
>combination.
>
>When I did not have a radio path to relay my APRS signals, which is frequent
>for large stretches in Indians, Kentucky and Tennessee, the Smart Phone
>(Epic 4G on Sprint) kept me posted on line much more frequently. At times
>the mobile would have links and the Smart Phone would not. Of course those
>just monitoring the radio side of APRS would not get the status from the
>Smart Phone. But the internet connections should both, so some might need to
>be aware of that. It was rare that a aprs report from one would match the
>timing, so it wasn't unusual for them to not track well, even though both
>are in the same mobile. Part of the tracking for that is due to some times
>not having either unit do precision reports due to stops and not wanting to
>get ripped off ... hi hi
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>On trips my wife and I love looking at the APRS WX stations in our travel
>direction, the local activities being announced, and the messages from time
>to time my friends and I use to stay in touch .... via APRS.
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>Last trip I ran my TM-D700 Two meter / 440 FM mobile with APRS. Easy

>interface to the AvMap G5 for GPS and Navigation Displays that includes APRS
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>the menu for alpha / numeric entry of the message. Of course I use 100hz to
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>traveling. Always call those that break the 100hz operation. The TH-D7AG
>hasn't seen APRS in a while, but has been used too.
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>driving.
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>Any thoughts on the best way to provide Geiger counter output data over
>APRS? I have two stations reporting Geiger readings to two different mapping
>systems. One in South Bend, IN and the other in Murfreesboro, TN. Plan on
>using an Inspector Alert while mobile one of these days reporting to those
>map sites while on a trip. Might do an internet feed too as some times these
>mobile trips by some detect trucks with cargo that are 'hot' and easy to
>detect .... but that's another story.
>http://www.radiationnetwork.com/
>http://www.blackcatsystems.com/RadMap/map.html
>
>73 from Bill - WD8ARZ
>
>----- Original Message -----
>From: "Bob Bruninga " <wb4apr@...>
>To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
>Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 9:23 AM
>Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question
>
>
>>> I've been interested in APRS tracking since I first
>>> heard about it years ago..
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>> Generally, APRS is not a "tracking" service! It is a network of
>> like-minded hams IN 2-way COMMUNICATION with each other in a network of
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>>> I've got the bug now to get my own hardware setup.
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>> Please see all of the missconceptions about APRS:
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>> Good two-way devices are any of the 8 Kenwood and Yaesu APRS radios, or he
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>>
>> Thanks, Bob, WB4APR
>
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>
>Yahoo! Groups Links
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834. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS - Info Distribution System

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-23 22:46:06 UTC
From: WD8ARZ
Topic: 832 Message: 834

Thanks for the feedback Bob, and sure do appreciate all that you have done
for so many!!

73 from Bill - WD8ARZ

----- Original Message -----
From: "Bob Bruninga " <wb4apr@...>
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 4:23 PM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS - Info Distribution System

> Re Smartphone APRS contact, yes, the -10 is the correct symbol. I was
> really impressed this weeekend by a CAP Balloon launch by a new ham. For
> backup, he put his Android phone on the balloon with a script to update
> its position periodically. Worked perfectly! Fortunately the APRS and
> the final UHF 433 MHz beacon all worked and despite landing in tall trees,
> the payload was sitting on the ground with the camera in horizontal
> position. Perfeect landing.
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> Re Geiger counters. YES, we have a protpcol for it, it is just an extra
> few characters in the WX format. I'd have to look it up to see the
> details. Something like Xxxxx...
>
> Bob, WB4APR
>
>
> ---- Original message ----
>>Date: Sun, 23 Oct 2011 15:50:22 -0400
>>From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com (on behalf of "WD8ARZ"
>><wd8arz@...>)
>>Subject: [SAR_APRS] APRS - Info Distribution System
>>To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
>>
>>Thank you Bob, have been pushing your message too, and the need doesn't
>>seem
>>to die out ... hi hi
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>>drive the trips so I can play.... hi hi
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>>(straight call for MarsAle on hf http://hflink.net/). I ran both the
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>>just monitoring the radio side of APRS would not get the status from the
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>>timing, so it wasn't unusual for them to not track well, even though both
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>>direction, the local activities being announced, and the messages from
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>>to time my friends and I use to stay in touch .... via APRS.
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>>Last trip I ran my TM-D700 Two meter / 440 FM mobile with APRS. Easy
>>interface to the AvMap G5 for GPS and Navigation Displays that includes
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>>D700
>>version even allows for a keyboard to input text directly rather than use
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>>systems. One in South Bend, IN and the other in Murfreesboro, TN. Plan on
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>>map sites while on a trip. Might do an internet feed too as some times
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>>mobile trips by some detect trucks with cargo that are 'hot' and easy to
>>detect .... but that's another story.
>>http://www.radiationnetwork.com/
>>http://www.blackcatsystems.com/RadMap/map.html
>>
>>73 from Bill - WD8ARZ
>>
>>----- Original Message -----
>>From: "Bob Bruninga " <wb4apr@...>
>>To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
>>Sent: Sunday, October 23, 2011 9:23 AM
>>Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] New to APRS - hardware question
>>
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>>>>> I've been interested in APRS tracking since I first
>>>>> heard about it years ago..
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>>> Generally, APRS is not a "tracking" service! It is a network of
>>> like-minded hams IN 2-way COMMUNICATION with each other in a network of
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>>> bad settings, and CANNOT BE CONTACTED to change things. They are
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>>> TX-Only-Hey-Look-at-me*but*don't*try*to*contact*me*I'm*not*listening
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>>> of operation is not appreciated.
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>>>>> I've got the bug now to get my own hardware setup.
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>>> Great! Get one that can send and receive messages and has a heads-up
>>> display so you can see what others around you are saying to you in this
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>>>>> I want to use a laptop as I'm in Search and Rescue and
>>>>> Civil Air Patrol and need the portability.
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>>> Great. But do consider APRS as a two-way communicatisno network.
>>> Texting
>>> between participants can provide a wealth of improved performance as an
>>> adjunct to voice in these events. One-way TX only devices are not
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>>> Please see all of the missconceptions about APRS:
>>>
>>> http://aprs.org/APRS-tactical.html
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>>> Good two-way devices are any of the 8 Kenwood and Yaesu APRS radios, or
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>>> texting GPS, etc.
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>>> Thanks, Bob, WB4APR
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>>Yahoo! Groups Links
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> Yahoo! Groups Links
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835. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS - Info Distribution System

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-23 23:36:51 UTC
From: Bob Burns W9RXR
Topic: 832 Message: 835

At 04:23 PM 10/23/2011, Bob Bruninga wrote:
>Re Smartphone APRS contact, yes, the -10 is the correct symbol.

SSID, not symbol.

Bob...

836. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS - Info Distribution System

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-24 19:32:46 UTC
From: Anthony Campion
Topic: 832 Message: 836

Hello to everyone,

I have been following the discussion with APRS in SAR work. Being in SAR for 30 years and in HAM for one year I realise that it is going to be hard to get APRS into SAR missions.

Yes there is a lot of features that would be good to use in SAR, but I think we will have to use the basic function of APRS to start with and that is just tracking the searchers. Once that is accepted and working well more will fall into place. We just have to start using it at training and at searches.

I have everything in place for the self contained system. A lot of our area is without cell coverage and without internet access. Some places do but we can not plan on the internet or cell coverage.

We use Maptech and is working. The problem is finding/using software to use. I did purchase Dmapper and it does work, but I am still looking for other software. It is a start and will keep working on a better system.

I am looking for software to try out if there is any sugestions??
Thanks

Tony Campion
Headwaters SAR Dog Unit
KC9SZW

837. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS - Info Distribution System

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-24 19:46:05 UTC
From: Lynn W. Deffenbaugh (Mr)
Topic: 832 Message: 837

Have you seen APRSISCE/32? It supports pre-loaded maps and various RF TNC interfaces as well as providing digipeater support and IGate if you've got Internet access. It runs on Windows Mobile phones (with Bluetooth links to serial adapters connected to your TNCs for RF access) and Win32 desktop machines.

Check out the Wiki at http://aprsisce.wikidot.com/start

And if there's any particular SAR feature that doesn't work well for you, let me know and it can be added to the ToDo list.

Lynn (D) - KJ4ERJ - Author of APRSISCE for Windows Mobile and Win32

PS. I'm also supporting CE5 on the WebDT 366 tablet and I'm told that it works under WINE and Parallels as well.

On 10/24/2011 3:32 PM, Anthony Campion wrote:
>
>
>
> Hello to everyone,
> I have been following the discussion with APRS in SAR work. Being in
> SAR for 30 years and in HAM for one year I realise that it is going to
> be hard to get APRS into SAR missions.
> Yes there is a lot of features that would be good to use in SAR, but I
> think we will have to use the basic function of APRS to start with and
> that is just tracking the searchers. Once that is accepted and
> working well more will fall into place. We just have to start using
> it at training and at searches.
> I have everything in place for the self contained system. A lot of
> our area is without cell coverage and without internet access. Some
> places do but we can not plan on the internet or cell coverage.
> We use Maptech and is working. The problem is finding/using software
> to use. I did purchase Dmapper and it does work, but I am still
> looking for other software. It is a start and will keep working on a
> better system.
> I am looking for software to try out if there is any sugestions??
> Thanks
> Tony Campion
> Headwaters SAR Dog Unit
> KC9SZW
>
>
>

838. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS - Info Distribution System

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-24 23:36:15 UTC
From: Jim Carr
Topic: 832 Message: 838
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

Several years ago, I designed a SAR trailer. With only a few modifications (such as using a full size Dell PC instead of a laptop and changing to the AIO transceivers), the design has not changed. Attached is a copy of the QST article that described the trailer.

Jim Carr, KC4MHH

james@...

http://www.fireline.org

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Anthony Campion
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2011 3:33 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS - Info Distribution System

Hello to everyone,

I have been following the discussion with APRS in SAR work. Being in SAR for 30 years and in HAM for one year I realise that it is going to be hard to get APRS into SAR missions.

Yes there is a lot of features that would be good to use in SAR, but I think we will have to use the basic function of APRS to start with and that is just tracking the searchers. Once that is accepted and working well more will fall into place. We just have to start using it at training and at searches.

I have everything in place for the self contained system. A lot of our area is without cell coverage and without internet access. Some places do but we can not plan on the internet or cell coverage.

We use Maptech and is working. The problem is finding/using software to use. I did purchase Dmapper and it does work, but I am still looking for other software. It is a start and will keep working on a better system.

I am looking for software to try out if there is any sugestions??

Thanks

Tony Campion

Headwaters SAR Dog Unit

KC9SZW

839. A discussion regarding legal implications of APRS for SAR uses

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-26 23:09:11 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 839 Message: 839

This thread started on another list (with a different subject line). I'm moving it over here 'cuz it's a much more appropriate place to talk about it. Disclaimer at the end.

On Mon, 24 Oct 2011, Ralph wrote (on another list):

> ...I have really great concerns about the use of these tracking devices in search operations. Let me propose a scenario. You have the teams and dogs APRS'd and they are out there.
> They pass a spot several times within a few feet and the subject is found deceased there two days later. A lawyer gets wind of this and files a wrongful death suit for the family
> claiming the team passed the person and should have found the subject. There are lots of ways to get that information including a legal order to provide it. This can be caused by the
> teams or dogs missing the subject, the subject being dead before the dogs passed (most live tracking/air scent dogs will not alert on a cadaver), or the subject moving it that position
> after the search team passed. (For those not familiar with search, one of the nightmares is the person who moves. Even if you set up prudent containment you can be fooled.)
>
> In spite of our team being 95% ham operators and more than a few have APRS equipment and use it for other situations, we have elected to not use this technology in search operations at
> this time. I would suggest you consider this before using it.

I've had time to think about this and to ask a couple of my friends who know more about certain aspects of this than I. On to what I learned from one of my buddies about legalities of SAR. I'm going to heavily paraphrase what he said, but I've heard much of this at SAR meetings and trainings through the years so little surprised me:

*) It's difficult to sue a SAR team or an individual. Even more so a SAR team, group, or individual that is there as PART of the government (as opposed to being asked to be there by the government.)
*) Good Samaritan laws protect the volunteers, as do many other state-specific volunteer and rescuer laws.
*) The 'Rescuer doctrine' gives very practical immunity for these folks.
*) Indemnity and statutory immunity laws protect most if not all of the SAR community.
*) Further proof: We don't see lawsuits like this being filed very often, and they are successful not at all.
) One should not attempt to propose a 'scenario' that is realistic and plausible when one is not an attorney experienced in this area of the law. You end up basically saying, "Take it from me...", yet you lack the professional experience to do anything other than unjustifiably claim support for your argument (with fantasy). (*His words, not mine)
*) He says: "I can safely and confidently say that what he claims as a risk, is absolutely not a risk factor."
*) People that go out in the woods (or anywhere) assume the risk that bad things will happen. There is NO guarantee of anyone coming to rescue you, or that by the time they show

up, you will be alive. Further, the minute you depart from the recommendations of SAR and survival experts to "stay put and make noise/signals" (or as he joked, be stupid enough to be out without the 12 essentials), you have heightened your risk factors beyond what society considers acceptable and no longer indemnifies you from the results of your action (which is much more PC than what he said the first time.)"
*) You can easily find many expert witnesses who would state: "You could easily pass within yards of a subject and not find them, even with a dog." Come on, we _ALL_ know this!
*) There's a greater chance of a lawsuit for NOT using the best technology available.
*) It was further mentioned that news folks might roast a SAR team in the media if they knew the capabilities of APRS and that it was NOT being used to aid a search. This could affect public perception and funding of the volunteer SAR organizations.
*) APRS increases safety of the search teams and awareness of the search by search base and others. There is an obligation to use the best tools to keep the teams safe.
*) APRS reduces the chances of making mistakes: "Team 1, you're in the wrong search area!" "Team 7, you're walking in the wrong direction!" It can be a source of good feedback to the team in many ways that improve their efforts.
*) APRS increases the chances of keeping a tight control over the search grids.
*) APRS can be an added component of the mission logs, to assure the IC directed the search per their ability and training, and that the searchers did so as well.

One scenario where a lawsuit might have success: Someone says he's a 'Professional' rescuer and is paid ahead-of-time to find someone, plus ALL of the following can be proven:
*) The subject could have been shown with no doubt to have been alive when the team passed by the first time.
*) The search methods were faulty as implemented, but training was proper and perfect (In other words the team was completely lazy, and completely and thoroughly screwed up, as though on purpose).
*) The search methods could have been implemented properly, and if implemented properly would have with absolute, unquestionable, and irrefutable certainty resulted in finding the subject alive.

How likely is that last scenario, and what would it have to do with the volunteer SAR organizations all over the U.S. anyway? We don't get paid to do this!

More food for thought, really having nothing to do with the legalities mentioned above, but stuff I thought up while working on this response:

If people won't carry APRS 'cuz they don't want lawyers to know where the SAR teams have been, then don't allow these either:

*) GM Onstar
*) Cell-phones carried on any SAR person
*) GPS that records your track
*) Witnesses
*) Comm logs at SAR base

Ridiculous, right?

Things that degrade GPS accuracy or APRS reception (There are more. These are just the ones I came up with in a couple of minutes):

*) Multi-path. GPS & APRS.
*) Signal blockage (mountains, foliage, etc). GPS & APRS

*) GPS position jumping because of signal blockage causing rapid changes in satellites used
*) Inherent accuracy of GPS to begin with
*) Wrong datum selected on tracker GPS
*) Wrong datum used in APRS tracking software at base
*) Loss of many APRS packets (don't make it to/through digi's, aren't heard by igates, or packet collisions)

Curt's summary: Use and train with APRS in SAR so that you know the advantages/disadvantages/shortcomings of the technology and can use it to best advantage for your operations. The more you use it, the more uses you'll find for it plus the more you'll get out of it.

If anyone wants links to specific SAR/APRS topics, send me a personal e-mail and I'll do my best to help you find it.

I ain't a lawyer but I'm smart enough to talk to them. This ain't legal advice, and you should be smart enough to know that if you want some, you need to talk to a lawyer too.

Curt Mills, WE7U. Member of Snohomish County SAR, WA, USA.

--
Curt, WE7U. http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

840. RE: [SAR_APRS] A discussion regarding legal imp lications of APRS for SAR uses

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-27 02:50:24 UTC
From: dave@roadfacts.com
Topic: 840 Message: 840

I think Curt sums it up very well. I have worked in SAR and have also worked in Government for many years in a job that is faced with the threat of suits many times.? It comes down to doing what would be considered reasonable and prudent.? The final question that must be answered is "was the searcher "Negligent" using APRS or any search technique for that matter"??? I doubt there is any negligent intent when using technology for searching.? Let the volunteers grow in their profession...cause not many others are willing or more equipped to come looking for us.

?

Dave

?

-------- Original Message --------
Subject: [SAR_APRS] A discussion regarding legal implications of APRS
for SAR uses
From: "Curt, WE7U" <curt.we7u@...>
Date: Wed, October 26, 2011 4:09 pm
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com

This thread started on another list (with a different subject line). I'm moving it over here 'cuz it's a much more appropriate place to talk about it. Disclaimer at the end.

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> after the search team passed. (For those not familiar with search, one of the nightmares is the person who moves. Even if you set up prudent containment you can be fooled.)
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Curt's summary: Use and train with APRS in SAR so that you know the advantages/disadvantages/shortcomings of the technology and can use it to best advantage for your operations. The more you use it, the more uses you'll find for it plus the more you'll get out of it.

If anyone wants links to specific SAR/APRS topics, send me a personal e-mail and I'll do my best to help you find it.

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Curt, WE7U. http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
The world DOES revolve around me: I picked the coordinate system!"

Yahoo! Groups Links

<*> To visit your group on the web, go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAR_APRS/

<*> Your email settings:
Individual Email | Traditional

<*> To change settings online go to:
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAR_APRS/join
(Yahoo! ID required)

<*> To change settings via email:
SAR_APRS-digest@yahoogroups.com
SAR_APRS-fullfeatured@yahoogroups.com

<*> To unsubscribe from this group, send an email to:
SAR_APRS-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

<*> Your use of Yahoo! Groups is subject to:
http://docs.yahoo.com/info/terms/

841. Re: A discussion regarding legal implications of APRS for SAR uses

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-27 05:49:14 UTC
From: Dave
Topic: 839 Message: 841

> They pass a spot several times within a few feet and the subject is found deceased there two days later. A lawyer gets wind of this and files a wrongful death suit for the family claiming the team passed the person and should have found the subject.

You missed one obvious answer - the person may not have been there at the time the searchers searched that area.

842. Re: A discussion regarding legal implications of APRS for SAR uses

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-27 05:54:56 UTC
From: Dave
Topic: 839 Message: 842

Another thought -

Does the search controller not have a duty of care of the searchers, by using GPS tracking you know where a searcher is and therefore have a real time position of their resources.

Is the US really a 'where theres a blame, theres a claim' culture. In the UK we have this attitude but for the volunteers who provide SAR facilities in the UK, the use of GPS tracking is seen as a H&S issue and a way of getting a real time position of the SAR unit back to Control, for planning reasons as well as H&S.

Dave

843. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: A discussion regarding legal implications of APRS for SAR uses

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-27 16:35:07 UTC
From: Herb Gerhardt
Topic: 839 Message: 843

Also keep in mind, there are those who DONOT want to be found!

Some want to commit suicide and some who might be illegal aliens who are afraid of being found. Yes, both of those situations exist at time which adds a huge degree of difficulty to a SAR.

Herb, KB7UVC
NW APRS Group, West Sound Coordinator
Our WEB Site: http://www.nwaprs.info

> -----Original Message-----
> From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com]
> On Behalf Of Dave
> Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2011 10:49 PM
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: [SAR_APRS] Re: A discussion regarding legal implications of APRS for
> SAR uses
>
> > They pass a spot several times within a few feet and the subject is found
> deceased there two days later. A lawyer gets wind of this and files a wrongful
> death suit for the family claiming the team passed the person and should have
> found the subject.
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> You missed one obvious answer - the person may not have been there at the time
> the searchers searched that area.
>

844. RE: [SAR_APRS] Re: A discussion regarding legal implications of APRS for SAR uses

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-27 16:47:32 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 839 Message: 844

On Thu, 27 Oct 2011, Herb Gerhardt wrote:

> Also keep in mind, there are those who DONOT want to be found!
>
> Some want to commit suicide and some who might be illegal aliens who are
> afraid of being found. Yes, both of those situations exist at time which
> adds a huge degree of difficulty to a SAR.

Plus:

*) That certain age-range of kids who are scared to be found 'cuz they think their parents will be mad.
*) Very young kids that are just plain scared and hiding from every noise/movement.
*) People out guarding their "crops" with weapons and sometimes booby-traps.

--
Curt, WE7U. http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
APRS in Search and Rescue: http://wetnet.net/~we7u/search_and_rescue.html

845. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: A discussion regarding legal implications of APRS for SAR uses

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-27 17:20:09 UTC
From: Mykle Raymond
Topic: 839 Message: 845

On 10/27/2011 9:47 AM, Curt, WE7U wrote:
> Plus:
>
> *) That certain age-range of kids who are scared to be found 'cuz they think their parents will be mad.
> *) Very young kids that are just plain scared and hiding from every noise/movement.
> *) People out guarding their "crops" with weapons and sometimes booby-traps.

And:

*) People with dementia of one sort or another, to one degree or another.
*) People with other perceptions of the world - remember the autistic teen from a couple of weeks ago who was thought to be unresponsive (SAR got lucky, he came out of his bush to greet the team).

Mykle, N7JZT

846. Re: [SAR_APRS] Re: A discussion regarding legal implications of APRS for SAR uses

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-10-27 17:30:47 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 839 Message: 846

On Thu, 27 Oct 2011, Dave wrote:

> Does the search controller not have a duty of care of the searchers, by using GPS tracking you know where a searcher is and therefore have a real time position of their resources.

Yes, the Incident Commander does want to assure that all the searchers are accounted for and safe. One of the tasks for the comms person at base is to "ping" each team every XX minutes to assure they're responsive, safe, and to find out their location. Obviously APRS could help a great deal to reduce or eliminate this "overhead" comms traffic.

> Is the US really a 'where theres a blame, theres a claim' culture. In the UK we have this attitude but for the volunteers who provide SAR facilities in the UK, the use of GPS tracking is seen as a H&S issue and a way of getting a real time position of the SAR unit back to Control, for planning reasons as well as H&S.

I don't quite know how to answer that. One can sue anybody for anything if they think they have a shot at gaining something (or stopping something).

--
Curt, WE7U. http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
APRS Device Capabilities: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/aprs_device_capabilities.html

847. 3rd Annual Ohio Search & Rescue Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-11-21 19:07:48 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 847 Message: 847

3rd Annual Ohio Search and Rescue Conference
March 2-4, 2012

Where: Ohio Fire Academy Campus
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Topics Include:

Review of the National SAR Plan Man□]tracking Fundamentals
Volunteer Protection Act Anatomy of a Trial
Personal Medical Fitness for SAR: Operational Aspects
Handheld GPS Fundamentals
Grants and Fund raising
Crime Scene Preservation
Lessons Learned Preparing You and Your Horse
Human First Aid/CPR
Emergency Care for Canines

For more information including the conference brochure and registration information, contact:

nvickroy63@...,
hideg59@..., or
gaynor.pfeffer@...

848. Terrain Navigator Pro Team Tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-01 02:18:50 UTC
From: Mike
Topic: 848 Message: 848

Been a while since I last visited. Have the new TNP with the team tracker module, just working the kinks out right now. New issue is serial to usb adapter that works with Windows Vista 64. Am I the only one with issues with APRS and Terrain Navigator Pro? Here is what I am using, Microtrack AIO into a Kenwood TM-D710 with tnc, out a serial port using a serial to usb adaptor. Win Vista 64 and TNP 9.0 beta. Using MTTTY to see if string is even getting to computer, which it is not, not sure what kind of serial to usb adaptor to use, a lot of options. I just wish someone had the same problems and resolved those issues so I would not spent so much time trying new hardware and software to try to make this all work.

Frustrated, please help

849. Re: [SAR_APRS] Terrain Navigator Pro Team Tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-01 05:16:03 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 848 Message: 849

Does the Team Tracker module support APRS directly, or is it using waypoint output from the Kenwood? Have you tried it with a Tracker2? Looks like they support the Infinity waypoint protocol, which the T2 will put out - well enough to work with ArcGIS anyway, but I haven't tested it with anything else.

The Tracker3 is getting very close to release (more pesky bugs squashed today) and it has native USB support that works just fine with Vista. It's a CDC device so it uses the operating system's built-in drivers and only needs an .inf file - and on Mac or Linux it doesn't even need that.

Scott
N1VG

On 11/30/2011 6:18 PM, Mike wrote:
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> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
>
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850. Re: [SAR_APRS] Terrain Navigator Pro Team Tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-01 17:00:03 UTC
From: Dan Newman
Topic: 848 Message: 850

My SAR team just purchased the team tracker option for TNP and 4 Pryme GPS speaker mics. We haven't received the mics yet. I would love to get APRS to show up on TNP.

On 11/30/2011 6:18 PM, Mike wrote:
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> Frustrated, please help
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851. Re: [SAR_APRS] Terrain Navigator Pro Team Tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-01 17:08:35 UTC
From: Jardy Dawson
Topic: 848 Message: 851

Try www.dmapper.com. This is an interface program that can track 8 teams in the field using APRS trackers, VX-8, or Kenwood radios with GPS and TNC's built in. The program allows posting to TNP or Nat Geo TOPO!, and keeps track if the teams are moving or sitting still. It should also work with your Pryme mics. We just recently got this set up, but we still have to play with it. The gentleman that wrote the program was very helpful on our questions. Only $40.00 with a free demo.

Jardy Dawson
KE7FHH Ham Radio

www.silverstarsar.org
www.ccareswa.org

Sent by my... oh who gives a rip anyway. It won't impress anyone, and if the keyboard and screen are so small I make mistakes while I use it, DEAL WITH IT!!
(Those signatures CAN be changed, you know!!)

>_____
>From: Dan Newman <newman@...>
>To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2011 9:00 AM
>Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Terrain Navigator Pro Team Tracker
>
>
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>

852. Re: [SAR_APRS] Terrain Navigator Pro Team Tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-01 17:11:18 UTC
From: Jardy Dawson
Topic: 848 Message: 852

Forgot one thing. If you test the APRS system on another program, turn off and reset your TNC to work. We couldn't get the dmapper program to work right until we reset. TNC work fine on packet radio.

Jardy Dawson
KE7FHH Ham Radio

Sent by my... oh who gives a rip anyway. It won't impress anyone, and if the keyboard and screen are so small I make mistakes while I use it, DEAL WITH IT!!
(Those signatures CAN be changed, you know!!)

>_____
>From: Dan Newman <newman@norcalscan.org>
>To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
>Sent: Thursday, December 1, 2011 9:00 AM
>Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Terrain Navigator Pro Team Tracker
>
>
>
>My SAR team just purchased the team tracker option for TNP and 4 Pryme GPS speaker mics. We haven't received the mics yet. I would love to get APRS to show up on TNP.
>
>On 11/30/2011 6:18 PM, Mike wrote:
>
>>Been a while since I last visited. Have the new TNP with the team tracker module, just working the kinks out right now. New issue is serial to usb adapter that works with Windows Vista 64. Am I the only one with issues with APRS and Terrain Navigator Pro? Here is what I am using, Microtrack AIO into a Kenwood TM-D710 with tnc, out a serial port using a serial to usb adaptor. Win Vista 64 and TNP 9.0 beta. Using MTTTY to see if string is even getting to computer, which it is not, not sure what kind of serial to usb adaptor to use, a lot of options. I just wish someone had the same problems and resolved those issues so I would not spent so much time trying new hardware and software to try to make this all work.
>>
>>Frustrated, please help
>>
>>
>
>
>
>

853. Re: [SAR_APRS] Terrain Navigator Pro Team Tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-01 17:27:33 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 848 Message: 853

I sent off an email to them last night to see if I could get a demo copy for compatibility testing. If anyone has any good contacts there, let me know. I never had much luck with Maptech years ago and pretty much gave up on them because of their lack of interest in tracking.

Scott
N1VG

On 12/1/2011 9:00 AM, Dan Newman wrote:
>
>
> My SAR team just purchased the team tracker option for TNP and 4 Pryme
> GPS speaker mics. We haven't received the mics yet. I would love to get
> APRS to show up on TNP.
>
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>> serial to usb adapter that works with Windows Vista 64. Am I the only
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>> using, Microtrack AIO into a Kenwood TM-D710 with tnc, out a serial
>> port using a serial to usb adaptor. Win Vista 64 and TNP 9.0 beta.
>> Using MTTTY to see if string is even getting to computer, which it is
>> not, not sure what kind of serial to usb adaptor to use, a lot of
>> options. I just wish someone had the same problems and resolved those
>> issues so I would not spent so much time trying new hardware and
>> software to try to make this all work.
>>
>> Frustrated, please help
>>
>
>
>
>

854. Re: [SAR_APRS] Terrain Navigator Pro Team Tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-01 18:49:53 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 848 Message: 854

On Wed, 30 Nov 2011, Scott Miller wrote:

> The Tracker3 is getting very close to release (more pesky bugs squashed
> today) and it has native USB support that works just fine with Vista.
> It's a CDC device so it uses the operating system's built-in drivers and
> only needs an .inf file - and on Mac or Linux it doesn't even need that.

Did I miss the creation of YAML (Yet Another Mailing List) for discussions of the Tracker3? Me want! Don't need/want Windows or Mac support. ;-)

I still love my Tracker2's, and I don't even have any of the production runs... Mine are Proto-A and Proto-C Tracker2's.

--
Curt, WE7U. http://www.eskimo.com/~archer
APRS Client Capabilities: http://www.eskimo.com/~archer/aprs_capabilities.html

855. Re: [SAR_APRS] Terrain Navigator Pro Team Tracker

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-02 03:03:53 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 848 Message: 855

Nope, no new mailing list yet. In fact I'll probably consolidate the lists if I can.

There aren't any beta units out there yet. Maybe there will be by the end of next week.

Scott
N1VG

On 12/1/2011 10:49 AM, Curt, WE7U wrote:
> On Wed, 30 Nov 2011, Scott Miller wrote:
>
>> The Tracker3 is getting very close to release (more pesky bugs squashed
>> today) and it has native USB support that works just fine with Vista.
>> It's a CDC device so it uses the operating system's built-in drivers and
>> only needs an .inf file - and on Mac or Linux it doesn't even need that.
>
> Did I miss the creation of YAML (Yet Another Mailing List) for discussions of the Tracker3? Me want! Don't need/want Windows or Mac support. ;-)
>
> I still love my Tracker2's, and I don't even have any of the production runs... Mine are Proto-A and Proto-C Tracker2's.
>

856. Wouxun KG-UV3D and APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-02 15:07:50 UTC
From: Paul
Topic: 856 Message: 856

Hi guys,
I have been lurking on this list for a while and was curious if anyone has tried using the KG-UV3D radio and modding it for APRS. I figure the cost is right for SAR APRS, its a dual band and just need interface the tnc for the GPS.

Thoughts or comments?

Thanks
Paul
KI4ADT
Alpha Team K9 SAR (atsar.org)

857. Re: [SAR_APRS] Wouxun KG-UV3D and APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-02 15:20:20 UTC
From: CaptALord@aol.com
Topic: 856 Message: 857

Byon (of Byonics) tried one with interesting results. With anything other than a shielded cable, even unconnected to anything on the other end, the transmitter would not un-key after pushing the PTT button. After modifying a shielded cable, it worked fine, but there is something about the input connectors that make the radio somewhat susceptible to locking up. I believe he had to fabricate his cable from the Wouxun Mic cable to get it to work properly.

Allen AF6OF
VHS

In a message dated 12/2/2011 7:08:00 A.M. Pacific Standard Time, sarpaul@... writes:

Hi guys,
I have been lurking on this list for a while and was curious if anyone has tried using the KG-UV3D radio and modding it for APRS. I figure the cost is right for SAR APRS, its a dual band and just need interface the tnc for the GPS.

Thoughts or comments?

Thanks
Paul
KI4ADT
Alpha Team K9 SAR (atsar.org)

858. TTQV and APRS

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-03 12:23:29 UTC
From: Peter Devanney
Topic: 858 Message: 858

Curious if anyone on the list has managed to get APRS working with Touratech (TTQV V4) Mapping Software? I have read that it should work but have not been able to find much documentation.

We use it for Search Planning and GPS track downloads and would like to integrate APRS.

73

Peter Devanney VA3YOW
SAR Global 1
Ottawa ON

859. 3rd Annual Ohio SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-09 18:02:06 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 859 Message: 859

3rd Annual Ohio Search and Rescue Conference
March 2-4, 2012

Where: Ohio Fire Academy Campus
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Topics Include:

Review of the National SAR Plan Man□]tracking Fundamentals
Volunteer Protection Act Anatomy of a Trial
Personal Medical Fitness for SAR: Operational Aspects
Handheld GPS Fundamentals
Grants and Fund raising
Crime Scene Preservation
Lessons Learned Preparing You and Your Horse
Human First Aid/CPR
Emergency Care for Canines

For more information including the conference brochure and registration information, contact:

nvickroy63@...,
hideg59@..., or
gaynor.pfeffer@...

860. APRS and Multiple Situation Awarness Activities

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-30 13:01:57 UTC
From: WD8ARZ
Topic: 860 Message: 860

With the growing world wide concerns that promote a lot of us to run APRS and Emcomm activities of one kind or another, it is not a wonder that there are those here that support APRS and other digital activities - base and mobile. In addition to the core activity that we run, situational information around us is important too. That is why we monitor the weather, news and APRS / ALE information / status sources. Many TV and Radio weather reporting services are about to include Space Weather data along with their normal fare. http://www.spaceweather.com/

Solar events affect us more than just with influences on our technology, power grids, and communications systems. They also pose risk to humans, even on the ground, but especially to those flying. Radiation is a factor from our Star Sol, which generates frequent events, and even nearby star events that have affected our systems too in the last few years.

Now we have man made terrestrial radiation issues. In that regard I have joined a couple of groups to share local radiation information to the world. Just as we provide a radio service as hams, we can also provide a situational awareness in the area of local radiation levels .... just like weather. If you think I exaggerate, go to the http://enenews.com for world wide current events on this topic.

Am working on a way to feed Geiger counter output 'counts per minute' via ALE http://hflink.net and APRS systems http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SAR_APRS/ . Aprs has an implementation, and am working on the interface. ALE is a no more than a wish list and is not expected. Local Wx and Geiger info would be interesting with APRS bursts eh?. Anyone already doing that??

In the near future I may feed Geiger counter data while mobile using APRS and the internet. Radiation Map sites listed below that will track / display that activity once I get the system debugged.

Have installed two Geiger counters in Murfreesboro, TN feeding the two sites listed below from the same computer. Serial is via db9 with out adapters and is on a ups. External probe model is feeding the Minererlab map site, and the internal probe model is feeding the Black Cat system. Probes are with in a couple inches of each other and on a top shelf of a desk near an outside wall on the first floor. The computer is a desktop by HP running XP. The two Geiger counters are RAD-COM by Circuits Maximus, designed and built by WA8YKN in Ohio using a WWII Russian SBM20 GM Tube

Station installed in South Bend, IN is using a single Geiger counter RAD-COM by Circuits Maximus using an external probe, designed and built by WA8YKN in Ohio using a WWII Russian SBM20 GM Tube - Feeding both the Minererlab map site, and the Black Cat system from the same Geiger using serial port

sharing software. The computer is an HP desktop 64bit Vista. Connection is from the Geiger db9 to a usb adapter to the usb port on the computer. Have used three different model adapters from time to time with out known differences between them. Serial port sharing software for the 64bit systems has to be bought due to Microsoft licensing issues. 32bit system version of the VSPE software is free. Software being used to share a single serial port input to the computer creates virtual serial ports for multiple programs to use.

Serial sharing software being used for the WD8ARZ Geiger Station in South Bend, Indiana is using the VSPE program. This allows feeding multiple radiation map sites and even separate statistical programs if you desire .... from a single Geiger counter connected to your computer.
http://www.eterlogic.com/Products.VSPE.html -"VSPE is intended to help software engineers and developers to create/debug/test applications that use serial ports. It is able to create various virtual devices to transmit/receive data. Unlike regular serial ports, virtual devices have special capabilities: for example, the same device can be opened more than once by different applications, that can be useful in many cases. With VSPE you are able to share physical serial port data for several applications, expose serial port to local network (via TCP protocol), create virtual serial port device pairs and so on."

Here are the links to the Radiation Geiger counter map server sites.

http://www.radiationnetwork.com/
There is a free app in the market place for this site, with an improved version in the works.

http://www.blackcatsystems.com/RadMap/map.html
Scroll down the page for the Google Map. There is a commercial app for this site too.

I use a professional unit, Inspector Alert, for hand held investigation of readings. It is much more sensitive than the online units using a pancake type radiation sensor.

I have no problems using the applications for my Epic Android cell phone for either site, and also no problems just using plain browser internet connections via the Epic.

Both sites have tons of great information.

Best of the Holidays To All Of You and Yours.

73 from Bill - WD8ARZ

861. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS and Multiple Situation Awarness Activities

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-30 13:29:59 UTC
From: Lynn W. Deffenbaugh (Mr)
Topic: 860 Message: 861

APRSISCE/32 will parse and display the "X" term from weather data as
Radiation: in a station information popup. The only station I'm aware
of that is transmitting this at this time (I haven't searched) is OH3NWQ
who has been doing so since (at least) 8/19/2011. You can see his
current raw value at http://73.fi/

What APRS stations will you be transmitting the radiation weather
measurements from?

Bob's APRS weather spec (http://aprs.org/aprs12/weather-new.txt) was
updated on 23 Mar 2011 to include X for radiation where the nnn value is:

> RADIATION LEVEL: The field Xxxx has been proposed for reporting the
> level of Nuclear Radiation levels if available. The X is the type
> indicator. We chose "X" for radiation. The xxx are like the resistor
> code. First, two digits of precision and the last digit is the order
> of magnitude in NANOSEVERTS/Hr. So 123 is 12 * 10^3 nanosieverts/hr or
> 12 microsieverts/hr. Or 456 is 45 * 10^6 nanosieverts/hr or 45
> millisieverts/hr. One bananna generates about .1 uSieverts/hr,
> a Brazil nut .4 uS/hr.

Lynn (D) - KJ4ERJ - Author of APRSISCE for Windows Mobile and Win32

On 12/30/2011 8:01 AM, WD8ARZ wrote:
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> and Emcomm activities of one kind or another, it is not a wonder that there
> are those here that support APRS and other digital activities - base and
> mobile. In addition to the core activity that we run, situational
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> power grids, and communications systems. They also pose risk to humans, even
> on the ground, but especially to those flying. Radiation is a factor from
> our Star Sol, which generates frequent events, and even nearby star events
> that have affected our systems too in the last few years.
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> Geiger counters are RAD-COM by Circuits Maximus, designed and built by
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> use.
>
> Serial sharing software being used for the WD8ARZ Geiger Station in South
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> once by different applications, that can be useful in many cases. With VSPE
> you are able to share physical serial port data for several applications,
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> readings. It is much more sensitive than the online units using a pancake
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> either site, and also no problems just using plain browser internet
> connections via the Epic.
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> Both sites have tons of great information.
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> Best of the Holidays To All Of You and Yours.
>
> 73 from Bill - WD8ARZ
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> ------------------------------------
>
> Yahoo! Groups Links
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862. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS and Multiple Situation Awarness Activities

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2011-12-30 14:10:37 UTC
From: WD8ARZ
Topic: 860 Message: 862

Thank you Lynn for your quick informative reply. Will follow up on your information and try to work out my missing links to interface the hardware to the APRS stream.

Am interested in having the output of a Geiger counter feed APRS from the base station in South Bend, Indiana and while mobile. Standard Vhf / Uhf APRS modes and maybe even the HF Aprs one day.

Do appreciate the additional information to aid my research and efforts with this interest.

73 from Bill - WD8ARZ

----- Original Message -----
From: "Lynn W. Deffenbaugh (Mr)" <ldeffenb@...>
To: <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Friday, December 30, 2011 8:29 AM
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS and Multiple Situation Awarness Activities

> APRSISCE/32 will parse and display the "X" term from weather data as
> Radiation: in a station information popup. The only station I'm aware
> of that is transmitting this at this time (I haven't searched) is OH3NWQ
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>
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>
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> updated on 23 Mar 2011 to include X for radiation where the nnn value is:
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>> RADIATION LEVEL: The field Xxxx has been proposed for reporting the
>> level of Nuclear Radiation levels if available. The X is the type
>> indicator. We chose "X" for radiation. The xxx are like the resistor
>> code. First, two digits of precision and the last digit is the order
>> of magnitude in NANOSEVERTS/Hr. So 123 is 12 * 10^3 nanosieverts/hr or
>> 12 microsieverts/hr. Or 456 is 45 * 10^6 nanosieverts/hr or 45
>> millisieverts/hr. One bananna generates about .1 uSieverts/hr,
>> a Brazil nut .4 uS/hr.
>
> Lynn (D) - KJ4ERJ - Author of APRSISCE for Windows Mobile and Win32

863. 3rd Annual Ohio SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-01-02 18:02:28 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 859 Message: 863

3rd Annual Ohio Search and Rescue Conference
March 2-4, 2012

Where: Ohio Fire Academy Campus
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Topics Include:

Review of the National SAR Plan Man□]tracking Fundamentals
Volunteer Protection Act Anatomy of a Trial
Personal Medical Fitness for SAR: Operational Aspects
Handheld GPS Fundamentals
Grants and Fund raising
Crime Scene Preservation
Lessons Learned Preparing You and Your Horse
Human First Aid/CPR
Emergency Care for Canines

For more information including the conference brochure and registration information, contact:

nvickroy63@...,
hideg59@..., or
gaynor.pfeffer@...

864. 3rd Annual Ohio SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-01-30 20:09:19 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 859 Message: 864

3rd Annual Ohio Search and Rescue Conference
March 2-4, 2012

Where: Ohio Fire Academy Campus
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Topics Include:

Review of the National SAR Plan Man□]tracking Fundamentals
Volunteer Protection Act Anatomy of a Trial
Personal Medical Fitness for SAR: Operational Aspects
Handheld GPS Fundamentals
Grants and Fund raising
Crime Scene Preservation
Lessons Learned Preparing You and Your Horse
Human First Aid/CPR
Emergency Care for Canines

For more information including the conference brochure and registration information, contact:

nvickroy63@...,
hideg59@..., or
gaynor.pfeffer@...

865. 3rd Annual Ohio SAR Conference, March 2-4

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-02-24 16:23:57 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 865 Message: 865

3rd Annual Ohio Search and Rescue Conference
March 2-4, 2012

Where: Ohio Fire Academy Campus
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Topics Include:

Review of the National SAR Plan Man□]tracking Fundamentals
Volunteer Protection Act Anatomy of a Trial
Personal Medical Fitness for SAR: Operational Aspects
Handheld GPS Fundamentals
Grants and Fund raising
Crime Scene Preservation
Lessons Learned Preparing You and Your Horse
Human First Aid/CPR
Emergency Care for Canines

For more information including the conference brochure and registration information, contact:

nvickroy63@...,
hideg59@..., or
gaynor.pfeffer@...

866. TEMPn-N preemptive digipeating

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-03-01 01:46:01 UTC
From: Peter Devanney
Topic: 866 Message: 866

My apologies for the cross post but have not seen any response to my original query on the main APRS SIG

My context for this is for use by SAR responders. Most of the time we will be in an area where we can often see the main network digi's and often cannot - if that makes any sense. The terrain is very hilly.

With the introduction of the D72 we now have the possibility that every team or selected teams can easily be a digi.

What happens in an area where there is no 144.39 "main" network coverage?

I understand that with TEMPn-N each tracker needs to re configured from normal day to day use (from WIDE 1-1,WIDE 2-1) to TEMP3-3 or similar. Not deal but can be done. I believe this would work well where there is no chance of accessing any of the 144.39 infrastructure??? The ad hoc digi's provide all of the coverage and I do not lose a chance to benefit from even limited access to the main 144.39 network with the TEMPn-N path in the tracker as I can't hit the main 144.39 network.

What happens in an area with some coverage from the main 144.39 network but also lots of holes?

With a TEMPn-N path, I am unable to take advantage of the main network. I can only digi through the ad hoc portable digis? In practice this may be adequate.
With a WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR3-3 path do I get digipeated by the main network if within range and by the ad hoc SAR digi(s) if not within range of the main network digi's? This is assuming preemptive digipeating is not turned on?
With a WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR3-3 path and preemptive digipeating turned on do I only get digipeated by the ad hoc portable digi's running the SAR alias?

If my thinking is right, I have three configuration options, TEMPn-N and SARn-N with and without preemption turned on??

Is the WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR3-3 without preemption turned on is my best option? If within range of a main network digi I get digipeated. If not, the ad hoc portable digi will do it. I get the chance of using both infrastructures (main and ad hoc network) and I don't have to ask the tracker owners to change paths which is preferred as they will probably forget at 3am when its snowing heavily and fingers are frozen. Responding amateurs can use the main network enroute to and from the incident without any configuration change.

Is my logic sound or have I misunderstood the configuration options?

Any other suggestions on how to set this up? Again, of the time we will be in an area where we can often see the main network digi's and often cannot - if that makes any sense. The terrain is very hilly.

thanks and 73
Peter VA3YOW
Ottawa, ON

867. Re: TEMPn-N preemptive digipeating

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-03-02 01:10:03 UTC
From: kf6nxq
Topic: 866 Message: 867

A decent explanation of how a path is interpreted as it is digipeated can be found at http://wa8lmf.net/DigiPaths/. This will help answer your questions about how your proposed WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR3-3 path would work.

Good explanations of APRS in general, with some special event/SAR explanations, can be found at http://aprs.org/.

868. Re: TEMPn-N preemptive digipeating

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-03-02 03:39:40 UTC
From: n7jzt@sarci.org
Topic: 866 Message: 868

Hello Peter,

Not having seen many replies, and seen some general references that don't really address your questions, I'll jump in ... and I am involved with SAR (in Arizona). More pertinently, I'm not in Ontario, so descriptions about my area need to be read while recognizing that we work in different areas.

The first point for you to investigate will be the configuration of the digipeaters in YOUR area. There may be some setups that are not reflecting the current "standards", for whatever reason. You need to understand what (equipment and location) and who (owners and sysops) you have to work with. Keep them involved as part of your communications resources and you are likely to have more options available.

The basis for the current "standards" is described in Bob Bruninga WB4APR's page at:
http://www.aprs.org/fix14439.html
The link recommended in a previous post is certainly good reading (both are talking about the same "standards""
http://wa8lmf.net/DigiPaths/

Before we dive in any further, a comment about the digipeater capability built into the Kenwood D72, noting that we have a little experience with only one of these radios. That comment is a personal observation, that digipeaters that are not at optimal locations will have less coverage (duh!), and will probably require LONGER PATHS. How many more hops? That depends upon your terrain and network coverage. That is not a criticism, just a note about the characteristics of a portable-tracker-digipeater "network".

Another note is that you can set up digipeaters to support your operational area, whether mobile radios parked in a good location, or digipeaters set up in sealed boxes (ammo cans) with battery/solar_charger/antenna/etc that may be packed to a good location (and retrieved later). With care you can set these up as WIDE1-1, and perhaps WIDEn-n digipeaters. You certainly have to be knowledgeable about the regular APRS network with which you may be interacting.

As you have noted, you can set up digipeaters to handle TEMPn-n packets, using a generic special-event alias. You can use SARn-n as well. However, these digipeaters are less likely to work with your regular APRS network, at least not without the main network digis being tweaked to support your system in some manner. Support your local sysops.

Here are a few PATHs and how they would be handled by conventional networks, just to get started:

WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR1-1
This path would be handled by a "standard" WIDEn-n network (if there really is such a system). The path will result in two hops, then will probably not proceed further since no digis in range are set to handle SARn-n. I did say that this is a "standard" system, so no fair adding "unless" statements ;=)

SAR1-1,WIDE2-1
If you have a local digi to handle SAR1-1, and it can bounce into the standard network, you are likely to have two hops with this path. If you don't have a SARn-n digi, it won't be digipeated at all. Or, if you have a SARn-n digi that cannot see a WIDEn-n digi, you would see one hop at most.

Preemptive digipeating

A digipeater is normally required to handle path elements in the order specified by the path in the packet. Each element must be marked "used" before the next element can be acted upon. If a WIDE area digi is set up to handle WIDE2 and WIDE3 packets, for example, and it hears a packet with a path of WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1, and the packet has not been digipeated by a WIDE1-1 digi, then this digi cannot act upon the WIDE2-1 element. If it hears WIDE1-1*,WIDE2-1 then the WIDE1-1 has been marked by a digi that repeated the packet, and this digi can act upon the WIDE2-1. This packet will be transmitted as WIDE1-1*,WIDE2* (and won't be digi'd further since no elements remain unused).

Preemptive digipeating allows a digi to act upon ANY unused path element that it is configured to handle. A digi set to handle WIDE2 and WIDE3 packets, that receives a packet with a path of WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1 and the WIDE1-1 has not been marked as "used", this digi can act upon the WIDE2-1, and mark any earlier elements that were not acted upon. So it will transmit WIDE1-1*,WIDE2*. If it receives WIDE1-1,WIDE2-2 (a three-hop path) then it will transmit WIDE1-1*,WIDE2-1 and one more hop remains for another digi.

If you have a local network set up to handle SAR1-1 (or TEMP1-1, or whatever), and your local digis are set up to use preemptive digipeating, then a path of
WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR1-1 would be digipeated with one hop, and would go no further. The result would be something like WIDE1-1*,WIDE2-1*,SAR1*
For those with picky details to offer, I'm just guessing about how the WIDE elements would appear, thinking that the digi will just mark them used, without modification. But you understand the point that I'm making about unused elements being "marked as used" that are in the path before the digi'd element. Any elements remaining AFTER the digi'd element are still available.

Our second sample path of SAR1-1,WIDE2-1 would not be handled any differently by our local and regular network. Preemptive digipeating is

not a factor in this path.

Just to summarize variations that you list in your message, with a path of
WIDE1-1,WIDE2-1,SAR3-3

The "standard" WIDEn network will handle this path by providing two hops. By then, you are out of range of any of your local SARn digis, and won't be digipeated further.

If the "standard" WIDEn network has been modified with preemptive digipeating turned on, the same result will occur (two hops).

If your local network is set to SARn, and preemption is NOT on, your packets will not be digipeated, unless any of the trackers are heard directly by the main network.

If your local network is set to SARn, and preemption is ON, you will have up to three hops within your local network, and no digipeats from the main network (all of the WIDE elements will have been marked used, since they are before the SARn).

Custom support

You may be able to enlist the support of main digipeater sysops that cover your area of interest. Their options will depend upon their TNC capabilities, and I am not able to list many variations on this theme. Support your local sysops.

Many digipeaters use the Kantronics KPC-3+. The "New Paradigm" from WB4APR (actually, the entire APRS community that waged words for months to "refine" the system) was designed for the capabilities and limitations of this TNC, as well as several other commonly used digis. These capabilities provide the sysop with some filtering and dupe-checking options. The dupe-checking is applied only to xxxxN-N elements, like WIDEn-n and TEMPn-n and SARn-n. But there are a very limited number of specifications that can be included at once.

If most of them are specifying WIDEn-n variations, there won't be many items remaining for you. So choose your requested elements carefully. SARn-n may not be the best choice, given that TEMPn-n is more generic. If you want to request only one element, perhaps TEMP3 would be good. Your trackers would not use TEMP2 or any other TEMPn variation. I'm sure that those that are familiar with digi operations will chime in to point out the errors in my assumptions.

Our area

The system that we are using was developed before TEMPn was defined. I simply invented a unique alias "SANDR" (Search AND Rescue). Note that the length of the callsign is fixed to six characters plus an SSID between 0 and 15. So, "SAR" uses the same number of characters in the packet as "RESCUE-15". We do not presently use preemptive digipeating

(In the spirit of full disclosure, I had a hand in defining this variation, once upon a time).

We request that only QRP trackers include SANDR as a path element.

All digi sysops in the southeast area of Arizona were asked to include SANDR as a supported element. All fixed stations were asked to turn digipeating on, for SANDR packets only. Anyone with a mobile radio capable of digipeating is encouraged to turn it on, for SANDR packets only. Each of our rescue vehicles is a digi, and many of our mobile radios are digis. We often park a vehicle at a good location, and receive packets from a neighboring canyon.

So, the path used by default in our portable trackers is SANDR,WIDE2-1

The idea is that any digi can help our trackers to reach the main network. We get to use the main network without any additional equipment of ours, by default. The "downside" is that we tolerate normal use by the APRS community.

Again, many people think that portable trackers acting as digipeaters is a GOOD thing. My very preliminary observation is that a longer path will be needed when the digipeaters are not in optimal locations (up high with good radio and antenna).

If I were designing a system today, and thinking about tracker/digipeaters, then TEMPn would probably be a better choice. We look forward to hearing about the experiences of groups in other areas!

73 de Mykle N7JZT
Southern Arizona Rescue Association
Tucson, Arizona

869. MX145H 2m Transmitter Modules Back in Stock at RPC Electronics, LLC

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-04-19 23:22:37 UTC
From: Jason R
Topic: 869 Message: 869

We finally have MX145H modules back in stock and they are ready to ship out now.

http://rpc-electronics.com/rf.php

Thanks and please emails us with any questions!

Jason Rausch - KE4NYV
RPC Electronics, LLC
www.rpc-electronics.com

870. Ohio SAR Conference, March 8-10

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-09-03 12:38:35 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 870 Message: 870

Save The Date!
4th Annual Ohio SAR Conference
March 8-10, 2013
Ohio Fire Academy
Reynoldsburg, Ohio
Conference schedule and other details will be sent at a later date.

871. SARTrack APRS International version now available

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-09-17 13:17:40 UTC
From: sartracknz
Topic: 871 Message: 871

SARTrack was original a New Zealand APRS based program for Search and Rescue.

I have now developed an International version which can be used anywhere in the world.
The system is based on the well established Amateur radio APRS system, which uses VHF radio to transmit location information.

However, the SARTrack software goes much further, and has many SAR specific features, including a LOG system to share and store all Search related items, and a special Radio operator screen for fast communication of messages between the radio operator and the search Controller.

The software features an un-docked interface (suitable for multi screen operations with a video projector) , Tactical callsigns, multi-color Tracks, and special SAR features like a Logging, messaging system and much more.
It can use off-line Maps, and has OpenStreetMap and Google Maps.
OpenStreetMap tiles are stored permanently for off-line use.

A lot work work has gone in it, and massive development is still going on, and I am open for requests for special features.

Believe it or not, the software is FREE, and can be downloaded from my website at

http://www.sartrack.co.nz/

Please give it a try and feedback is _very_ welcome.

NOTE: The new New Zealand version, which includes 3 Gigabyte of NZ Topographical maps will be available for download within a week.

You can reach me on the SPAM protected email address you find on the website.

Thanks,

Bart Kindt
ZL4FOX

872. APRS at Indiana-Kentucky SAR Conference - Nov 3, 2012

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-10-30 18:26:03 UTC
From: Kevin Ratcliff
Topic: 872 Message: 872

Good afternoon all,

The Indiana-Kentucky SAR Conference will be held November 2-4 at Lincoln State Park in southern Indiana. As part of this annual conference there will a short SAR exercise on the evening of November 3, 2012, and APRS will be utilized again this year. Exact time is unknown, but probably in the timeframe of 1900-2200 Central Standard Time (0000 to 0300 UTC on November 4).

We will be using a wide variety of hardware and software, to include:

Xastir
UI-View32
SARTrack

Many Byonics AIO Trackers
A couple Yaesu VX-8s
A couple D700s
A D710
A D72
More?

We will also be testing Garmin Rino FRS and maybe Astro dog collar trackers with the new version of Basecamp.

In past years there was no local fixed digi that would provide portable coverage, so we will probably just have an IGate running over 3G/4G. Or perhaps put up a portable digi for RF coverage.

I will post TNC log files of the event, but if anybody wants to watch live you an zoom to the following coordinates:

38 05.972N
086 59.879W

or

USNG/MGRS: 16S EH 00176 16858

or

Look for one of the following callsigns:

SAROPS (K9EVV's tactical callsign)
KB9MQU
KB9MQU-1

Thanks.

Kevin
KB9MQU

PS - I am not coordinating APRS for the event, just a participant.

873. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS at Indiana-Kentucky SAR Conference - Nov 3, 2012

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-10-30 20:51:58 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 872 Message: 873

On Tue, Oct 30, 2012 at 12:26 PM, Kevin Ratcliff
<kevin@...> wrote:
> We will be using a wide variety of hardware and software, to include:
>
> Xastir
> UI-View32
> SARTrack

You might want to familiarize yourself with Sarsoft:

http://code.google.com/p/sarsoft/

It's an offline version of http://caltopo.com. It's focused more on
mapping than APRS. APRS is just one of the sources of map data. It has
drawing features intended for drawing search areas. Everything you do
shows up on everyone's map, shared throughout ICP with temporary wifi
if you have multiple computers.

Tom KD7LXL

874. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS at Indiana-Kentucky SAR Conference - Nov 3, 2012

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-10-30 21:15:27 UTC
From: Kevin Ratcliff
Topic: 872 Message: 874

On Tue, Oct 30, 2012 at 4:51 PM, Tom Hayward <tom@...> wrote:
> On Tue, Oct 30, 2012 at 12:26 PM, Kevin Ratcliff
> <kevin@...> wrote:
>> We will be using a wide variety of hardware and software, to include:
> You might want to familiarize yourself with Sarsoft:

Wow! This looks like exactly what we need. Why didn't I know about this before?

I should have time to get it up and running before this weekend,
though I don't know if I'll get all of our offline map data converted
into tiles in time. We should have internet access at the ICP so that
shouldn't matter for this weekend.

Is there an email list for Sarsoft users? I didn't see one on the
Google Code wiki.

Thanks!

Kevin

875. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS at Indiana-Kentucky SAR Conference - Nov 3, 2012

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-10-30 21:27:33 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 872 Message: 875

On Tue, Oct 30, 2012 at 3:15 PM, Kevin Ratcliff <kevin@...> wrote:
> On Tue, Oct 30, 2012 at 4:51 PM, Tom Hayward <tom@...> wrote:
> > On Tue, Oct 30, 2012 at 12:26 PM, Kevin Ratcliff
> > <kevin@...> wrote:
> >> We will be using a wide variety of hardware and software, to include:
> > > You might want to familiarize yourself with Sarsoft:
>
> Wow! This looks like exactly what we need. Why didn't I know about this before?

It's not very well advertised. It's created by Matt of
http://bamru.info/ and he has not set up any kind of mailing list.

> I should have time to get it up and running before this weekend,
> though I don't know if I'll get all of our offline map data converted
> into tiles in time. We should have internet access at the ICP so that
> shouldn't matter for this weekend.

If you want the base tiles used for CalTopo, you can ask Matt
<info@...> for them. He distributes them free for SAR use and
licenses them for commercial use.

If you have your own scanned maps (not tiles) you want to use with
Sarsoft, you can add them--it's a feature. It's really easy to
geo-reference them if you have a base map with the same features. This
demo shows how: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36UQKYtdn00

Tom KD7LXL

876. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS at Indiana-Kentucky SAR Conference - Nov 3, 2012

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-10-30 21:33:36 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 872 Message: 876

On Tue, Oct 30, 2012 at 12:26 PM, Kevin Ratcliff
<kevin@...> wrote:
>
> We will be using a wide variety of hardware and software, to include:
>
> Xastir
> UI-View32
> SARTrack

YAAC also has a good balance of ease of use and offline maps. You can fetch vector OpenStreetMaps and topo maps from within the app. There are some new drawing features that I haven't experimented with yet.

http://www.ka2ddo.org/ka2ddo/YAAC.html

Tom KD7LXL

877. Need Digi in Kentucky at Mamouth Cave Park

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-10-31 13:47:29 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 872 Message: 877

We need an APRS digi at the Mammoth Cave National Park.

I was there this weekend and was unable to see anyone. There are no hills in the area, just valleys in the Karst, so I could not even go park high up to get in(or out). Finally, with a 20' fiberglass push-up mast and twin-lead J pole I was able to copy some traffic, so it would not take much to install a digi on a roof somewhere in the park.

Left my rig beaconing even while parked and eventually met up with another APRS mobile visiting the park. But you cannot see us on APRS.FI because there is no network.

As one of the major national parks, with millions of visitors and with its location near to I-65, we should try to get a digi there. I'll contribute a TNC if someone can do the local legwork.

Here is the list of National Parks and APRS coverage:
http://aprs.org/aprs-parks.html

SEPARATE TOPIC: I sure would have liked to have another APRS person with an APRS HT see how far we could communicate underground. Sure the GPS does not work, but with the very long and big tunnels in Mamouth, I'd like to explore propagation. My guess is for the major tour routes, and with up to 7 hops, we could cover quite a distance. Certainly not the 400+ total miles, of course, but the main routes..

With the new Kenwood TH-D72 which can digipeat, it would be fun to have a few underground at the same time.

Shucks! Maybe we should set up a date and see how many APRS D72's we can get to visit the cave some weekend. Call it a Minifest?

Bob, WB4APR

878. Xastir-2.0.2 Stable Released

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-11-01 19:43:17 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 878 Message: 878

Xastir-2.0.2 was released a few minutes ago, then CVS was bumped to v2.0.3 for further development.

Download at your leisure. The big green "Download" button on the main page hasn't updated to the latest file yet, so you may need to use the direct link below instead:

https://sourceforge.net/projects/xastir/files/xastir-stable/xastir-2.0.0/

See the ChangeLog file for changes made since the last stable release.

--
Curt, WE7U. http://wetnet.net/~we7u
The greatest enemy of knowledge is not ignorance, it is the illusion of knowledge. -Stephen Hawking

879. RE: Need Digi in Kentucky at Mamouth Cave (and APRS in caves!)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-11-05 18:25:39 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 872 Message: 879

> We need an APRS digi at the Mammoth Cave National Park.
> Here is the list of National Parks and APRS coverage:
> http://aprs.org/aprs-parks.html
>
> With the new Kenwood TH-D72 which can digipeat, it would
> be fun to have a few underground at the same time.

Along those lines, and since now we can extend our radio TEXTING range inside caves by using multiple hops between TH-D72 digipeating HT's, I have updated my 1997 APRS Cave Radio web page:
http://aprs.org/cave-link.html

And am floating the idea of maybe having an APRS Communication conference there... so we can get enough D72 radios (at least 7) to be able to test the concept.

Bob, Wb4APR

880. APRS in caves!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-11-16 19:34:37 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 872 Message: 880

APRS test in Mammoth Cave:

I got a reply back from the Ranger at Mammoth Cave and he would be happy to support an APRS communication experiment in the cave. They have over 400 miles of cave, but only about 1000 feet of WIFI.

I'd be happy to put together a proposal if we thought we could get 8 to 15 people to converge on Mammoth Cave Kentucky some weekend with their TH-D72s... Lemme see if there are any nearby BIG hamfests during the year. (Nashville or Louisville).

So lets see if we have some volunteers first and then form a plan.

I wonder if Lynn can search for D72's within 150 miles of Mammoth on the APRS-IS?
(though most are off when not in use)...

Bob

-----Original Message-----
From: Robert Bruninga [mailto:bruninga@...]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 1:26 PM
To: Robert Bruninga; SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Cc: TAPR APRS Mailing List; aprs@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: Need Digi in Kentucky at Mamouth Cave (and APRS in caves!)

> We need an APRS digi at the Mammoth Cave National Park.
> Here is the list of National Parks and APRS coverage:
> http://aprs.org/aprs-parks.html
>
> With the new Kenwood TH-D72 which can digipeat, it would
> be fun to have a few underground at the same time.

Along those lines, and since now we can extend our radio TEXTING range inside caves by using multiple hops between TH-D72 digipeating HT's, I have
updated my 1997 APRS Cave Radio web page:
http://aprs.org/cave-link.html

And am floating the idea of maybe having an APRS Communication conference there... so we can get enough D72 radios (at least 7) to be able to test the concept.

Bob, Wb4APR

881. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS in caves!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-11-16 19:49:28 UTC
From: Chaplain Dave Sparks
Topic: 872 Message: 881

On Fri, Nov 16, 2012 at 11:34 AM, Robert Bruninga <wb4apr@...> wrote:

> APRS test in Mammoth Cave:
>
> I got a reply back from the Ranger at Mammoth Cave and he would be happy
> to support an APRS communication experiment in the cave. They have over
> 400 miles of cave, but only about 1000 feet of WIFI.
>
> I'd be happy to put together a proposal if we thought we could get 8 to 15
> people to converge on Mammoth Cave Kentucky some weekend with their
> TH-D72s... Lemme see if there are any nearby BIG hamfests during the
> year. (Nashville or Louisville).
>
> So lets see if we have some volunteers first and then form a plan.
>
> I wonder if Lynn can search for D72's within 150 miles of Mammoth on the
> APRS-IS?
> (though most are off when not in use)...
>
> Bob
>

I hope you don't mind me butting in with a "rookie question", but does GPS
still work inside a cave? Or would you be entering location data manually?

--
Dave Sparks -- AF6AS

882. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS in caves!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-11-16 20:28:09 UTC
From: Bernie Roche
Topic: 872 Message: 882

Dear Bob:

Cavers have been developing cave radios for many years. You might want to take a look at

http://www.caves.org/section/commelect/spelonic.html

for more info and contacts. I'm not sure if cavers have ventured into underground APRS yet, but many are hams, and some would probably be interested in participating.

Best Wishes,

Bernie Roche
VE3OTR
NSS 1842RL
PSC 399

On Fri, Nov 16, 2012 at 2:34 PM, Robert Bruninga <wb4apr@...> wrote:

> **
>
>
> APRS test in Mammoth Cave:
>
> I got a reply back from the Ranger at Mammoth Cave and he would be happy
> to support an APRS communication experiment in the cave. They have over
> 400 miles of cave, but only about 1000 feet of WIFI.
>
> I'd be happy to put together a proposal if we thought we could get 8 to 15
> people to converge on Mammoth Cave Kentucky some weekend with their
> TH-D72s... Lemme see if there are any nearby BIG hamfests during the
> year. (Nashville or Louisville).
>
> So lets see if we have some volunteers first and then form a plan.
>
> I wonder if Lynn can search for D72's within 150 miles of Mammoth on the
> APRS-IS?
> (though most are off when not in use)...
>
> Bob
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Robert Bruninga [mailto:bruninga@...]
> Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 1:26 PM
> To: Robert Bruninga; SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Cc: TAPR APRS Mailing List; aprs@yahoogroups.com

> Subject: RE: Need Digi in Kentucky at Mamouth Cave (and APRS in caves!)
>
> > We need an APRS digi at the Mammoth Cave National Park.
> > Here is the list of National Parks and APRS coverage:
> > http://aprs.org/aprs-parks.html
> >
> > With the new Kenwood TH-D72 which can digipeat, it would
> > be fun to have a few underground at the same time.
>
> Along those lines, and since now we can extend our radio TEXTING range
> inside caves by using multiple hops between TH-D72 digipeating HT's, I
> have
> updated my 1997 APRS Cave Radio web page:
> http://aprs.org/cave-link.html
>
> And am floating the idea of maybe having an APRS Communication conference
> there... so we can get enough D72 radios (at least 7) to be able to test
> the concept.
>
> Bob, Wb4APR
>
>

--

Best Wishes,

Bernie Roche, CEC
VE3OTR / VA3OTR
Peel ARC ARES
Accredited Examiner, Industry Canada
Canwarn Radio Net Controller
CITIG member
(647) 692-8842 res
(416) 435-0423 cell
VE3OTR@...

Communicare, Resolvere, Perficere
We Communicate, We Complete, WE GET THINGS DONE

883. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS in caves!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-11-16 20:35:06 UTC
From: Bernie Roche
Topic: 872 Message: 883

Very astute question!

I remember years ago seeing a GPS plot where a car travelled through a tunnel under the St. Lawrence River. The plot went part-way in, but signals were lost, then it picked up again on the way out.

Considering the frequency, I would think that signals would be reflected a bit into the mouth of the cave, but would peter out pretty quickly.

Best Wishes,

Bernie Roche
VE3OTR
NSS 18402RL
PSC 399

On Fri, Nov 16, 2012 at 2:49 PM, Chaplain Dave Sparks <dsparks@...>wrote:

> **
>
>
>
>
> On Fri, Nov 16, 2012 at 11:34 AM, Robert Bruninga <wb4apr@...>wrote:
>
>> APRS test in Mammoth Cave:
>>
>> I got a reply back from the Ranger at Mammoth Cave and he would be happy
>> to support an APRS communication experiment in the cave. They have over
>> 400 miles of cave, but only about 1000 feet of WIFI.
>>
>> I'd be happy to put together a proposal if we thought we could get 8 to 15
>> people to converge on Mammoth Cave Kentucky some weekend with their
>> TH-D72s... Lemme see if there are any nearby BIG hamfests during the
>> year. (Nashville or Louisville).
>>
>> So lets see if we have some volunteers first and then form a plan.
>>
>> I wonder if Lynn can search for D72's within 150 miles of Mammoth on the
>> APRS-IS?
>> (though most are off when not in use)...
>>
>> Bob
>>
>
> I hope you don't mind me butting in with a "rookie question", but does GPS

> still work inside a cave? Or would you be entering location data manually?
>
> --
> Dave Sparks -- AF6AS
>
>
>

--

Best Wishes,

Bernie Roche, CEC
VE3OTR / VA3OTR
Peel ARC ARES
Accredited Examiner, Industry Canada
Canwarn Radio Net Controller
CITIG member
(647) 692-8842 res
(416) 435-0423 cell
VE3OTR@...

Communicare, Resolvere, Perficere
We Communicate, We Complete, WE GET THINGS DONE

884. RE: [SAR_APRS] APRS in caves!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-11-16 20:46:05 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 872 Message: 884
Attachments: 1 described; binary payloads are missing from this source WARC

The goal is TEXT communication via digiipeating from HT to HT. Position data can also be entered manually..

But is not the main goal.

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] *On Behalf Of *Chaplain Dave Sparks
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2012 2:49 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS in caves!

On Fri, Nov 16, 2012 at 11:34 AM, Robert Bruninga <wb4apr@...> wrote:

APRS test in Mammoth Cave:

I got a reply back from the Ranger at Mammoth Cave and he would be happy to support an APRS communication experiment in the cave. They have over 400 miles of cave, but only about 1000 feet of WIFI.

I'd be happy to put together a proposal if we thought we could get 8 to 15 people to converge on Mammoth Cave Kentucky some weekend with their TH-D72s... Lemme see if there are any nearby BIG hamfests during the year. (Nashville or Louisville).

So lets see if we have some volunteers first and then form a plan.

I wonder if Lynn can search for D72's within 150 miles of Mammoth on the APRS-IS?
(though most are off when not in use)...

Bob

I hope you don't mind me butting in with a "rookie question", but does GPS still work inside a cave? Or would you be entering location data manually?

--
Dave Sparks -- AF6AS

885. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS in caves!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-11-16 20:53:32 UTC
From: VA7OTC JD Erskine
Topic: 872 Message: 885

On 16/Nov/12 12:28, Bernie Roche wrote:
> Dear Bob:
>
> Cavers have been developing cave radios for many years. You might want
> to take a look at
>
> http://www.caves.org/section/commelect/spelonic.html
>
> for more info and contacts. I'm not sure if cavers have ventured into
> underground APRS yet, but many are hams, and some would probably be
> interested in participating.
>
> Best Wishes,
>
> Bernie Roche
> VE3OTR

Thank Bernie, was just looking for that link. While I have several
related sites of interest bookmarked, a quick search for cave radio with
a few design names will turn up a plethora of resources.
https://duckduckgo.com/?q=nicola+heyphone+cave+radio

73, John
--
J.D. Erskine
Victoria, BC
VA7OTC/VE0JD

886. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS in caves!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-11-16 21:00:27 UTC
From: VA7OTC JD Erskine
Topic: 872 Message: 886

On 16/Nov/12 12:46, Robert Bruninga wrote:

> The goal is TEXT communication via digiipeating from HT to HT. Position
> data can also be entered manually..

> But is not the main goal.

However, using something akin to your APRS TT (Touch Tone) preplanned
location info might be utilised in conjunction with APRS IM/SMS
http://www.aprs.org/aprstt.html

73, John
--
J.D. Erskine
Victoria, BC
VA7OTC/VE0JD

887. 2013 Ohio SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-11-19 03:56:19 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 887 Message: 887

2013 Ohio Search and Rescue Conference

March 8-10, 2013

Conference Brochure and Registration form will be uploaded to the files section on this site.

Location:
The Ohio Fire Academy
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Topics Include:
☐ The Role of the A.G. Office in Missing Person Incidents
☐ Ohio Amber Committee Updates
☐ Ohio Child Abduction Response Team Updates
☐ Search Theory for Searchers
☐ Ohio Incident Management Teams
☐ Ohio CERT - Status and update
☐ Canine Physical Conditioning and Working Dog DNA Bank
☐ Physical and Psychological Support of Extended Search Operations
☐ Results of Effective Sweep Width Experiments
☐ Personal Stories and Accounts of Abduction
☐ Social Media: The usage and ethics in missing person cases

Plus
☐ Ohio Search and Rescue Association Meeting
☐ Movie - Dogs of War: The Fight Back Home

For additional information contact: nvickroy63@...

888. RE: APRS in caves (2nd call for D72 owners)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-12-06 00:42:36 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 872 Message: 888

Need more D72 owners for our big APRS Mammoth cave test on 2-3 March 2013.

The Park Service will support us if we can get together enough people with radios to see how far we can communicate using HOP7-7,HOP7-7 paths underground. This weekend coinsides with the Cave City Hamfest just 5 miles away. Let me know if you can make one or both days. We wont be crawling. Just walking a few miles underground.

See background on http://aprs.org/cave-link.html

Let me know if I can count on you. Mostly D72's are needed for their digipeating function. Though some with D7's or VX8R's could provide some support.

Bob, Wb4APR

-----Original Message-----
From: Robert Bruninga [mailto:bruninga@...]
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2012 2:35 PM

APRS test in Mammoth Cave:

I got a reply back from the Ranger at Mammoth Cave and he would be happy to support an APRS communication experiment in the cave. They have over 400 miles of cave, but only about 1000 feet of WIFI.

I'd be happy to put together a proposal if we thought we could get 8 to 15 people to converge on Mammoth Cave Kentucky some weekend with their TH-D72s... Lemme see if there are any nearby BIG hamfests during the year. (Nashville or Louisville).

So lets see if we have some volunteers first and then form a plan.

I wonder if Lynn can search for D72's within 150 miles of Mammoth on the APRS-IS?
(though most are off when not in use)...

Bob

-----Original Message-----
From: Robert Bruninga [mailto:bruninga@...]
Sent: Monday, November 05, 2012 1:26 PM
To: Robert Bruninga; SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Cc: TAPR APRS Mailing List; aprs@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: Need Digi in Kentucky at Mamouth Cave (and APRS in caves!)

> We need an APRS digi at the Mammoth Cave National Park.
> Here is the list of National Parks and APRS coverage:

> http://aprs.org/aprs-parks.html
>
> With the new Kenwood TH-D72 which can digipeat, it would
> be fun to have a few underground at the same time.

Along those lines, and since now we can extend our radio TEXTING range inside caves by using multiple hops between TH-D72 digipeating HT's, I have
updated my 1997 APRS Cave Radio web page:
http://aprs.org/cave-link.html

And am floating the idea of maybe having an APRS Communication conference there... so we can get enough D72 radios (at least 7) to be able to test the concept.

Bob, Wb4APR

889. RE: APRS in caves (MARYLAND pre-test?)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-12-06 22:09:02 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 872 Message: 889

Scaling back. How about D72 APRS volunteers for a Maryland, No Va Cave?

Some Saturday or Sunday in December around 3 PM in Boonsboro at Crystal Grottos?

Bob, WB4APR

-----Original Message-----
From: Robert Bruninga [mailto:bruninga@...]
Sent: Wednesday, December 05, 2012 7:43 PM
To: Robert Bruninga; SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Cc: TAPR APRS Mailing List; aprs@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: APRS in caves (2nd call for D72 owners)

Need more D72 owners for our big APRS Mammoth cave test on 2-3 March 2013.

The Park Service will support us if we can get together enough people with radios to see how far we can communicate using HOP7-7,HOP7-7 paths underground. This weekend coinsides with the Cave City Hamfest just 5 miles away. Let me know if you can make one or both days. We wont be crawling. Just walking a few miles underground.

See background on http://aprs.org/cave-link.html

Let me know if I can count on you. Mostly D72's are needed for their digipeating function. Though some with D7's or VX8R's could provide some support.

Bob, Wb4APR

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From: Robert Bruninga [mailto:bruninga@...]
Sent: Friday, November 16, 2012 2:35 PM

APRS test in Mammoth Cave:

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So lets see if we have some volunteers first and then form a plan.

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http://aprs.org/cave-link.html

And am floating the idea of maybe having an APRS Communication conference there... so we can get enough D72 radios (at least 7) to be able to test the concept.

Bob, Wb4APR

890. 2013 Ohio SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2012-12-29 01:07:51 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 887 Message: 890

2013 Ohio Search and Rescue Conference

March 8-10, 2013

Conference Brochure and Registration form are located in the files section on this site.

Location:
The Ohio Fire Academy
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Topics Include:
☐ The Role of the A.G. Office in Missing Person Incidents
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☐ Physical & Psychological Support of Extended Search Operations
☐ Results of Effective Sweep Width Experiments
☐ Personal Stories and Accounts of Abduction
☐ Social Media: The usage and ethics in missing person cases

Plus
☐ Ohio Search and Rescue Association Meeting
☐ Movie - Dogs of War: The Fight Back Home

For additional information contact: nvickroy63@...

891. Dmapper3 new release

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-01-27 18:38:54 UTC
From: DaveN roadfacts.com
Topic: 891 Message: 891

I have recently posted a new release of "Dmapper3" for APRS use in SAR that works with XP,Vista,Win7, and now has KISS mode decoding.

www.dmapper.com (Follow link to Dmapper3 beta)

The current beta version 3.01(b15) includes some of the following user requested changes from older Dmapper2

* Expanded to work with newer windows operating systems. (tested on XP, Vista, Win7)

* KISS mode serial TNC support.

* APRS-IS and Local telnet feeds allow multiple login parameters and filters.

* Still works with Terrain Navigator, National Geographic Topo, and OziExplorer.

* Added ability to manually input coordinates, along with a coordinate conversion tool.

* Can be expanded to handle more tracked units (old version had limit of 8)

* "Capture ALL" heard units for posting to the map, even if not specifically tracked.

* Tracked units can be "sorted", including a dynamic sort so the last heard unit is always on the top of the list.

* User designated data file path allows enhanced storage for network installation and data sharing. (more on this later)

* Messaging is partially developed with more messaging and telemetry exchange functions on my list of ideas. (Stuff Mr. Bruninga might like)

This is a beta release as a result of a total re-write of the code to the .NET platform. It's still a work in progress but fully operational for previous Dmapper2 registered users and in demo mode for unregistered users.

Dmapper3 will not replace or erase your older Dmapper2 versions when installed so both can be used.

Special thanks to my small group of pre-testers who helped get it to this point, and the hundreds of Dmapper2 users that have tried Dmapper over the years and given suggestions for my still long list of future enhancements.

Please give it a try and let me know what you think.
Dave Neys W7PDQ
www.dmapper.com

892. SARTrack Update 0.9519. Major Maps update; U.S.A. Topomaps and more

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-01-29 14:14:35 UTC
From: sartracknz
Topic: 892 Message: 892

Hi All,

A month's hard work, but it is worth it.
Rewritten the OSM (OpenStreetMap) Tile engine completely.
It is now possible to add new OSM-type Map servers to SARTrack using a configuration file.
This makes it much easier to add new OSM-type Servers to SARTrack.
A User-definable Config file will be available on the next update, so users can also add their own OSM-type maps.

- Added the option to load Transparent Maps, both in the OSM system and the Local Maps system.

This has made it possible to add multi-layer OSM-type maps, with a Base map and up to two transparent Overlays.
Also, selectable transparent maps can be overlaid over an existing base map.

The following new OSM (and compatible) maps have been added:

- TopOSM: A 3-layer Topographical Map system, currently only for the U.S.A. (I am very happy to have this for the U.S.A.)
- Cycle, Cycle-Transport and Cycle-Terain. These are excelent OSM maps, with a Topographical background. These cover the whole world and especially the Cycle-Terain is perfect for SAR work.
- MapQuest Satellite. A whole-world satellite coverage, but with restricted Zoom levels.

- Overlay HillShade map. This topographical transparent map will overlay hill shade over other maps, but it does only cover certain areas (most of Europe anyway).
- Overlay OpenSeaMap. This is a fast growing, fully transparent map of coastal and inland waterway data, like sea lanes and navigation beacons.
- Overlay EarthNC Marine maps. These are semi-transparent Marine maps, scanned in by EarthNC from complete paper marine maps, and they cover mostly areas around the USA.

NOTE: Do not enable the marina Overlays unless you actually use them! When a Map is enabled, SARTrack will attempt to download all Tiles on the screen, even if it is a SeaMap and you are over land. This will cause lots of HTML 'file not found' errors, and slow down the download of other tiles.

Added a better "Licence" information overlay at the bottom of all OSM maps, now clickable which will open the Website of the selected OSM map.

Added an On-Line/Off-Line overlay top/left of the map window, which, when clicked, will toggle the Internet download of Map Tiles.
When selected Off-Line, SARTrack will not attempt to download Map Tiles from the internet.

Updated the Help file with more information on the use of OSM and Local maps (Select option at the bottom of the Map-Type menu)
(The Help system still has to be rebuild completely, but I have no time...)

http://www.sartrack.co.nz/

Cheers, Bart

893. 2013 Ohio SAR Conference

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-02-02 16:32:41 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 887 Message: 893

2013 Ohio Search and Rescue Conference

March 8-10, 2013

Conference Brochure and Registration form are located in the files section on this site.

Location:
The Ohio Fire Academy
8895 East Main Street
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068

Topics Include:
☐ The Role of the A.G. Office in Missing Person Incidents
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☐ Personal Stories and Accounts of Abduction
☐ Social Media: The usage and ethics in missing person cases

Plus
☐ Ohio Search and Rescue Association Meeting
☐ Movie - Dogs of War: The Fight Back Home

For additional information contact: nvickroy63@...

894. CP140

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-02-26 10:13:56 UTC
From: CP140
Topic: 894 Message: 894

http://www.lisacarneydesign.com/wdimget/xd6b5bmbwvi7napap5.kuz01zm?z3n4sz98s571hressqtywj
CP1402/26/2013 11:13:56 AM

895. Ohio SAR Conference - Don't Miss Out!

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-02-26 23:52:49 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 895 Message: 895

2013 Ohio Search and Rescue Conference

March 8-10, 2013

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Plus
☐ Ohio Search and Rescue Association Meeting
☐ Movie - Dogs of War: The Fight Back Home

For additional information contact: nvickroy63@...

896. Re: [SAR_APRS] CP140

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-02-27 06:04:06 UTC
From: CP140
Topic: 894 Message: 896

Please disregard. It appears my account was hacked and someone has been sending spam under my name. My apologies

Regards

From: CP140 <cp140405@...>
To: FT 60 <FT-60@yahoogroups.com>; FTM 350R <FTM-350R@yahoogroups.com>; SAR APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>; ui view <ui-view@yahoogroups.com>; kd2arf <kd2arf@...>; kf0cu <kf0cu@...>; oldbucko19 <oldbucko19@...>; va7hyd <va7hyd@...>; yaesu vx 170 <yaesu_vx-170@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 26, 2013 2:13:56 AM
Subject: [SAR_APRS] CP140

http://www.lisacarneydesign.com/wdimget/xd6b5bmbwvi7napap5.kuz01zm?z3n4sz98s571hressqtywj

CP140
2/26/2013 11:13:56 AM

897. SARTrack Update 0.9.540- New SAR features

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-05-04 21:27:49 UTC
From: sartracknz
Topic: 897 Message: 897

Hi All,

A new SARTrack Update is out, with a lot of new SAR features.
http://www.sartrack.co.nz/

You can read about the current SAR features (with pictures) in this new document:
http://www.sartrack.co.nz/SARFeatures.html

HAM (and SAR) users:
I have improved the way new OSM-compatible Maps can be added to SARTrack.
You now only have to download any additional Maps from:
http://www.sartrack.co.nz/downloads/examples/

and then copy them into this directory:
..\My Documents\SARTrack\OSMINI\
info@...
Then, in the OSM Maps window, under Options, select "Generate new OSM Maps".
This will _override_ your existing OSMMaps-User.ini file, so if you ever entered any OSM maps in there which are NOT on the SARTrack website, make a backup first.
info@...
New OSM Maps I have found and uploaded are a set or World Weather overlays, which automatically update every 15 minutes.
Very cool, give it a go.

All _SAR_ users please read:
This version uses a changed SAR Log system.
It is no longer compatible with older versions of SARTrack. Make sure that you update ALL your SARTrack computers!
The new SAR Log now also has a TimeLine window, which gives a visual "Whiteboard" representation of the Log. This is a very powerfull feature. Please try it and ley me know your thoughts.

Pictures at: http://www.sartrack.co.nz/SARFeatures.html

Also, all SARTrack computers used in "SAR Mode" now require a "Group ID", which doubles as an Encryption Key.
You will be asked to enter an ID number between 101 and 25600, and whatever random number you select the first time, make sure that ALL other connected SARTrack PC's then are set up with the _SAME_ number afterwards.
This number will separate your SAR Log and Messages from other SAR Groups using the same APRS server or radio frequency, and the Log and Messages will be encrypted with your Private Key.

I suggest that SAR operations are not using the APRS-IS network (unless you need to use the local repeaters/igates...) but instead use a private APRS server.
I have set one up for general SAR use: It is at "sartrack.nl", you can use Port 10152 which does not require filters, or Port 14580 which uses the standard Filter commands. This

server is running on a large Virtual server system, using Linux, and connected to a large fiber network.

Note: For New Zealand users I have a different Server.

Shortly the development of a full SAR Operational Management system will commence. This will use a My-SQL server, intended to run on the 'primary' SARTrack laptop used during an operation.
This is a major task, and I would grealy appreciate feedback during the development.

For this purpose, I have set up a special Mailing List, for Search and Rescue (and related) updates and discussions only.
SARTrack will ask you if you wish to join. Or, please email info@....

Cheers,

Bart ZL4FOX / PA2FOX

898. Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 16:25:19 UTC
From: Anthony E Campion
Topic: 872 Message: 898

Hello.

Wondering if any group have implemented APRS for real time tracking of searchers? We are looking at purchasing a couple Byonics AIO. Does any SAR group use these or is there something else that is being used?

Thanks for any feedback!!

Tony Campion

Headwaters Search & Rescue Dog Unit ARDA-WI

899. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 16:48:26 UTC
From: Glenn Wallace
Topic: 872 Message: 899

We've been testing them -- the issue we have is finding good command post software to receive and track, out in areas where we don't have internet access.

I did change the settings on the AIO so the GPS wasn't powered down, it reduced the battery life but gives us more accurate positions because the GPS isn't "settling" after powering up.

On Jul 18, 2013, at 9:25 AM, "Anthony E Campion" <an.campion@...> wrote:

>
> Hello.
>
>
>
> Wondering if any group have implemented APRS for real time tracking of searchers? We are looking at purchasing a couple Byonics AIO. Does any SAR group use these or is there something else that is being used?
>
>
>
> Thanks for any feedback!!
>
>
>
> Tony Campion
>
> Headwaters Search & Rescue Dog Unit ARDA-WI
>
>
>

900. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 16:59:29 UTC
From: Curt, WE7U
Topic: 872 Message: 900

On Thu, 18 Jul 2013, Glenn Wallace wrote:

> We've been testing them -- the issue we have is finding good command post software to receive and track, out in areas where we don't have internet access.

Hook up a serial port to a TNC and a radio or scanner. Problem solved. You can actually use a soundcard input and special software to act as the TNC, but I wouldn't recommend that. Hardware TNC's are more reliable long-term.

You don't need internet access to do APRS. In fact it was used for quite a while before any of the internet gateways and servers were in place. It is designed for local tactical awareness, not for watching on the internet.

There are plenty of programs for APRS on various OS'es. Name your OS and people will probably jump on here with their favorites.

--
Curt, WE7U. http://wetnet.net/~we7u
APRS: Where it's at! http://www.xastir.org

901. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 17:03:57 UTC
From: Ray Shadow
Topic: 872 Message: 901

We are running this set up and it has been working great for us.

Byonics AIO -- Yeasu 8900 --- Kantronics TNC + --- DMapper(software) --- Terrain Navigator pro

Puts tracks and check points on the maps for you and is fairly customizable. Terrain navigator also has a phone app that allows you to synce with your active project (if you have internet) and you can send pictures of articles of interest and they will show up on the map.

If I can provide any assistance please let me know

902. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 17:08:04 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 872 Message: 902

I carry a Kenwood TH-D72 while searching. It sits in a dual-radio chest harness next to my Motorola HT1250. It's easy to change settings and look up positions of other teams. I often switch between 144.35 MHz @ 9600 baud and 144.39 MHz @ 1200 baud depending on the area (our county has good 9600 baud coverage and a cross-gate from 144.39). We have a ham repeater dedicated to SAR so I will usually monitor that with the b-band.
Cost: $450

I haven't used a Micro-Trak AIO, but I'll make some comments:
- It looks like it doesn't have a receiver! Did I read that right? If this is the case, you'll want to configure time slotting to keep your fleet of trackers from interfering with each other, and you may need to move to a secondary frequency to reduce the possibility of getting stomped on by some guy's D700 putting out 50W on 144.39 MHz.
- If you need a portable digipeater, it will need to be something other than a AIO, for example a D72 on a ridge. It may be difficult to change the path on the AIO, so plan your portable digipeaters accordingly.
- The battery life of the AIO is phenomenal! ...but see Glenn's note about turning the GPS on and off to save power. It runs AAs, so swapping batteries is simple.
Cost: $260

The other obvious all-in-one option in the Yaesu VX-8GR. Like the D72, it can monitor a ham repeater and is easy to reconfigure. If I'm reading the specs right, it also comes in at under half the weight of the AIO.
Cost: $310 after rebate

My recommendation:
- Encourage team members to purchase a TH-D72 or VX-8GR as their ham HT. Now they are APRS capable without relying on team equipment. They will appreciate it more and learn to use it better than signing-out a yellow brick to stick in their pack.
- Get some Micro-Trak AIOs to give to non-hams. Without a PTT or VFO, you can be control operator of the automated beacon from base.
- Get a D72 or used D7 (or spare gear you already have) and package it as a portable digipeater.

As Glenn mentioned, the biggest hurdle is good off-network APRS software. The problem here isn't so much the software (lots of good stuff has been developed in the last few years), but the offline maps. I use Xastir personally. We haven't standardized on anything as a team. When in cell data coverage, http://aprs.fi/ is used on laptops and smartphones in the field. Can't beat that setup time.

Tom KD7LXL

On Thu, Jul 18, 2013 at 9:25 AM, Anthony E Campion <an.campion@...>wrote:

> **
>
>
> Hello.****
>
> ** **
>
> Wondering if any group have implemented APRS for real time tracking of
> searchers? We are looking at purchasing a couple Byonics AIO. Does any
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> ** **
>
> Thanks for any feedback!!****
>
> ** **
>
> Tony Campion****
>
> Headwaters Search & Rescue Dog Unit ARDA-WI****
>
>
>

903. RE: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 17:14:01 UTC
From: Bob Hardin
Topic: 872 Message: 903

The AIO is just a transmitter. It will transmit whether the channel is in use or not!

Better to have GPS/Tracker that plugs into a HT and transmit after voice for these reasons:

Uses the same frequency as voice so in places, like here, where must use cross band repeaters to get communications back to the command post, if voice gets thru so does the APRS.

Sounds like a repeater courtesy tone after transmissions.

Way cheaper than standalone hardware if your searchers already have HTs.

At the command post you can use Several programs that work without internet access. Topo or Terrain Navigator plus Dmapper to plot on maps.

http://www.roadfacts.com/software/dmapper/dmapperInfo.htm

Works well and very flexible.

Bob

Allegan County SAR

From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Glenn Wallace
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 12:48 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

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On Jul 18, 2013, at 9:25 AM, "Anthony E Campion" <an.campion@...> wrote:

Hello.

Wondering if any group have implemented APRS for real time tracking of searchers? We are looking at purchasing a couple Byonics AIO. Does any SAR group use these or is there something else that is being used?

Thanks for any feedback!!

Tony Campion

Headwaters Search & Rescue Dog Unit ARDA-WI

904. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 17:18:41 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 872 Message: 904

On Thu, Jul 18, 2013 at 10:14 AM, Bob Hardin <bobh@...> wrote:
>
> Better to have GPS/Tracker that plugs into a HT and transmit after voice for these reasons:

Sorry to thread-jack, but what emissions designator would we need to license for this technique?

Tom KD7LXL

905. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 17:24:04 UTC
From: Glenn Wallace
Topic: 872 Message: 905

> Hook up a serial port to a TNC and a radio or scanner. Problem solved. You can actually use a soundcard input and special software to act as the TNC, but I wouldn't recommend that. Hardware TNC's are more reliable long-term.
>
> You don't need internet access to do APRS. In fact it was used for quite a while before any of the internet gateways and servers were in place. It is designed for local tactical awareness, not for watching on the internet.
>
> There are plenty of programs for APRS on various OS'es. Name your OS and people will probably jump on here with their favorites.
> .
>

Right, the hardware is the easy bit. None of the software we've looked at has had the features we are looking for. (Windows 7 is our OS)
I think we're currently looking at DMapper+Ozi.

906. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 17:41:38 UTC
From: Keith VE7GDH
Topic: 872 Message: 906

Tom KD7LXL wrote...

> My recommendation: Encourage team members to purchase
> a TH-D72 or VX-8GR as their ham HT.

Or a Yaesu FT1DR. Any reviews on this one yet? or the
FTM400DR?

73 es cul - Keith VE7GDH
www.ui-view.org
--
"I may be lost, but I know exactly where I am!"

907. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 18:24:59 UTC
From: CaptALord@...
Topic: 872 Message: 907

All APRS transmitters will transmit if the channel is in use or not, irrespective of whether they have a receiver to prevent transmitting during other transmissions. Coincidental transmissions are only a factor from the perspective of the digipeater's reception point, which by the phenomenon of FM capture, still means that the transmission with the best signal margin transmitting first captures the digipeater or I-gate's receiver, and it "wins" that "hand" of the "receive the packet game". An example of this would be a transmitter on one side of a mountain and another transmitter on the opposite side of the mountain. Neither transmitter can receive the other directly, and whether they transmit sequentially or simultaneously, one is likely to be captured and the other not. If the digi starts to re-transmit the original signal, the other transmitter will hold off transmitting, and any transmitter playing the "wait for the open time slot" game will transmit, perhaps overriding the nearly equidistant transmitter on the opposite side of the mountain, or perhaps adding just enough noise to prevent either transmission from making it through the system.

This leaves you with two strategies for increasing your throughput; 1) Transmit frequently with enormous amounts of power and brute force your throughput (Note that many hams are anti-social personalities and may hunt you down and set your house on fire if you adopt this strategy) or 2) Transmit at a beacon rate just fast enough to send the requisite information (i.e., it is kind of sill to update your Ground SAR team at a rate of once every 30 seconds if they are on foot) and hope everyone else is smart and/or polite enough to adopt the same game theory. Fewer transmissions from everyone results in consequent fewer packet collisions. Of course, we all know that not everyone is not on board with this strategy. If you have X number of transmitters, all within simplex range of each other, and each one waits until the air is quiet before initiating a transmission, all the transmitters will transmit simultaneously, effectively preventing anyone's transmission from making it through to the APRS-IS. Blind attempts at coordination are more likely to cause mayhem than near random transmissions and acknowledging that you will never see 100% throughput with APRS, until such time as the entire Amateur Radio world agrees on a coordinated "cellular" methodology, i.e, when hell freezes over.

If you don't want to have to rely on Game Theory to predict your throughput, I agree that you are better off using your voice frequency with a MIC-E tail, since your repeater will act as your own private digi, which you can then choose to integrate into the APRS or just use your own direct monitoring. The overwhelming number of people using the AIO for SAR work chose that mode because it offers higher power and is compatible with the largely ubiquitous 144.390 infrastructure. (Plus, unlike the very nice Kenwood or Yaesu handhelds, it comes pre-programmed, and does not take a black-belt in keyboard reprogramming techniques to re-program!)

Since Data requires a much higher signal margin at the receiver than voice to be useful, the best overall strategy in my opinion is to set up your own digipeater network off the National frequency, and leave an AIO for data and a voice radio for voice. If either system individually fails, the remaining system provides a lifeline of its own. If your agency has an aircraft, flying an airborne digi with your own input frequency is also a very effective strategy.

Best regards,

Allen R. Lord
VHS/Byonics
(The Micro-Trak Guy)

908. RE: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 18:26:08 UTC
From: Bob Hardin
Topic: 872 Message: 908

Ham Technician license
No special license to transmit APRS is just a version packet.

Can look transmit after voice up on TAPR is called mic-e.

-----Original Message-----
From: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com [mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Tom Hayward
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 1:19 PM
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

On Thu, Jul 18, 2013 at 10:14 AM, Bob Hardin <bobh@...> wrote:
>
> Better to have GPS/Tracker that plugs into a HT and transmit after voice for these reasons:

Sorry to thread-jack, but what emissions designator would we need to license for this technique?

Tom KD7LXL

Yahoo! Groups Links

909. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 18:48:10 UTC
From: Tom Hayward
Topic: 872 Message: 909

On Thu, Jul 18, 2013 at 11:26 AM, Bob Hardin <bobh@...> wrote:
>
> Ham Technician license
> No special license to transmit APRS is just a version packet.

Maybe I should have clarified, we do our tactical communication on
Part 90 frequencies. I assumed this was pretty standard for SAR.

Tom KD7LXL

910. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 18:50:06 UTC
From: CaptALord@...
Topic: 872 Message: 910

Tom,

I assume you mean adding the MIC-E to your existing voice channel? The emission designator stays the same as for voice (20K0F3E as I recall) and you don't have to redesignate the emissions type to add "tone signalling, even though it packets of AFSK have a different technical designator. Its unimportant for Amateur radio, and only marginally important for NBFM Land Mobile Radio.

Allen

In a message dated 7/18/2013 11:31:06 A.M. Pacific Daylight Time, bobh@... writes:

Ham Technician license
No special license to transmit APRS is just a version packet.

Can look transmit after voice up on TAPR is called mic-e.

-----Original Message-----
From: _SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com_ (mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com) [mailto:_SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com_ (mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com)] On Behalf Of Tom Hayward
Sent: Thursday, July 18, 2013 1:19 PM
To: _SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com_ (mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com)
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

On Thu, Jul 18, 2013 at 10:14 AM, Bob Hardin <_bobh@iserv.net_ (mailto:bobh@...) > wrote:
>
> Better to have GPS/Tracker that plugs into a HT and transmit after voice for these reasons:

Sorry to thread-jack, but what emissions designator would we need to license for this technique?

Tom KD7LXL

Yahoo! Groups Links

911. Re: Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 19:25:48 UTC
From: sartracknz
Topic: 872 Message: 911

For software, I suggest you try the SARTrack software, which is especially written for Search and Rescue and APRS, but now has a huge amount of extra SAR specific features added. It is under heavy development. It is Windows based but will run under Linux Wine as well.

All Maps are available off-line once downloaded from the Map Servers. Lots of different Maps, including various USA Topo maps.

Extended APRS functions, including Tactical callsigns, multi-color Tracks, Operations Log, TimeLine window, SAR Status window, IPP/LKP/PLS Ring system on the maps (also over APRS network), etc, etc.

It is small and compact and fast, and... it is Free.

http://www.sartrack.co.nz/

Bart Kindt
Developer.

912. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise from Indiana

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 19:45:30 UTC
From: <EVVFIRE@...>
Topic: 912 Message: 912

Great question, We have been using them routinely for several years on every search and every weekend for training. We have worked through several versions and prototypes. Below are links to show what we use today. Very dependable.

With a good internet connection we use Google Earth, without we use U-veiw 32

We also have out truck setup as a digi repeater and I Gate so that helps a lot.

Cliff Weaver, Search Manager
Ohio Valley Search and Rescue
Evansville, Indiana

http://vsar.org/11saroperations.htm

http://vsar.org/09tinytrackers.htm

old truck

Normal.dotm 0 0 1 13 75 OVSAR 1 1 92 12.256 0 false 18 pt 18 pt 0 0 false false false /* Style Definitions */table.MsoNormalTable {mso-style-name:"Table Normal"; mso-tstyle-rowband-size:0; mso-tstyle-colband-size:0; mso-style-noshow:yes; mso-style-parent:""; mso-padding-alt:0in 5.4pt 0in 5.4pt; mso-para-margin:0in; mso-para-margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-ascii-font-family:Cambria; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-hansi-font-family:Cambria; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin;}http://ovsar.org/OperationsTruck.htm

new truck

Normal.dotm 0 0 1 33 189 OVSAR 1 1 232 12.256 0 false 18 pt 18 pt 0 0 false false false /* Style Definitions */table.MsoNormalTable {mso-style-name:"Table Normal"; mso-tstyle-rowband-size:0; mso-tstyle-colband-size:0; mso-style-noshow:yes; mso-style-parent:""; mso-padding-alt:0in 5.4pt 0in 5.4pt; mso-para-margin:0in; mso-para-margin-bottom:.0001pt; mso-pagination:widow-orphan; font-size:12.0pt; font-family:"Times New Roman"; mso-ascii-font-family:Cambria; mso-ascii-theme-font:minor-latin; mso-hansi-font-family:Cambria; mso-hansi-theme-font:minor-latin;}https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=4495310102672&set=a.1143856878436.80773.1287917060&type=3&theater

On Thursday, July 18, 2013 11:25 AM, Anthony E Campion <an.campion@...> wrote:
>

Hello.

Wondering if any group have implemented APRS for real time tracking of searchers? We are looking at purchasing a couple Byonics AIO. Does any SAR group use these or is there something else that is being used?

Thanks for any feedback!!

Tony Campion
Headwaters Search & Rescue Dog Unit ARDA-WI

913. Re: Advise from Indiana

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 21:33:07 UTC
From: Jim Walters - N4SAR
Topic: 912 Message: 913

We are not using real time tracking yet but also looking at the SARTRACK application for future because of the extra SAR features.
Forums on SAR_APRS@Yahoogroups and SARTrack-SAR mailing list:
SARTrack-SAR@sartrack.nl
http://sartrack.nl/cgi-bin/mailman/listinfo/sartrack-sar

Also using Google Earth via hotspot to plan and plot from recording trackers on team leaders and K9s.
(KlaasKids Search Team)

Escambia Search and Rescue just started using Infinity GPS-Mic-1 tracking receiver/microphones ($200 each) with our public safety band radios. No results to report yet. Got a grant ;-))

Jim Walters, N4SAR
Communications Manager
KlaasKids Foundation Search Team
Escambia Search And Rescue, inc.
Escambia County ARES
Pensacola, Florida
fb.com/jimwalters48

914. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 22:14:09 UTC
From: Steven Heimann
Topic: 872 Message: 914

Yes, we are using Byonics AIO's plus Argent T2-301's plus a VX8 and a Kenwood TH-72A.

At base we run APRSIS32 with an HT connected to a Tinytrak 4 as the TNC. The data is pushed from APRSIS32 to topo maps in Oziexplorer using some software called Oziaprs. Several have mentioned Dmapper. I think Oziaprs is a little like Dmapper (perhaps not as many features) but it is currently free and doesn't limit the number of callsigns tracked.

We put in a local digi, either a FT-2800 linked to an old Kantronics TNC and/or a DR-635 with digital board.

Regards
Steven VK2BOS

On 19/07/13 02:25, Anthony E Campion wrote:
> Hello.
>
> Wondering if any group have implemented APRS for real time tracking of
> searchers? We are looking at purchasing a couple Byonics AIO. Does any
> SAR group use these or is there something else that is being used?
>
> Thanks for any feedback!!
>
> Tony Campion
>
> Headwaters Search & Rescue Dog Unit ARDA-WI
>
>

915. RE: [SAR_APRS] Advise (Track with DTMF)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-18 23:00:18 UTC
From: Robert Bruninga
Topic: 915 Message: 915

Ø Wondering if any group have implemented APRS for real time tracking of searchers? We are looking at purchasing a couple Byonics AIO. Does any SAR group use these or is there something else that is being used?

If the teams are religiously following a SAR map with a SAR grid, they can also report their positions via 4 digits of DTMF to the nearest 100 feet or so. This is good enough to show a block that they have searched. It will not be as accurate as GPS for showing proof of coverage, but Every sar radio guy already has an HT with DTMF, so why not use it.

See http://aprs.org/aprstt.html

Byonics makes a Tracker DTMF combo that receives the DTMF from uinits in the field and then converts it all to APRS so that everyone looking at the APRS tacktical map will also see the DTMF reports too.

Total cost is under $100 and each SAR search only needs one at the headquarters tent.

Bob, WB4aPR

916. Re: Advise from Indiana

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-19 05:13:35 UTC
From: sartracknz
Topic: 912 Message: 916

--- In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, Jim Walters - N4SAR <n4sar@...> wrote:
>
> Escambia Search and Rescue just started using Infinity GPS-Mic-1 tracking receiver/microphones ($200 each) with our public safety band radios. No results to report yet.

I am very keen to add more Tracking systems to SARTrack.
Currently SARTrack supports the Kenwood FleetSync radio system, and can now Track these radios (more options to communicate with these radios come later, when I can find time).
SARTrack converts the tracking data from these radios to APRS Objects, so they show up as a moving Object just like a Station complete with colored Track and Tactical callsign (and are transported that way over the APRS network).

I would like to add more 'GPS Radio Mike's' to SARTrack, but I need somebody who uses them to help me test the system, and I need to be able to get access to the serialport protocol used.

Please email me if you use a GSP Radio mike system, and would like me to add it. info@...

Thanks,

Bart Kindt
SARTrack developer.

917. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-20 10:49:24 UTC
From: Bob Burns W9BU
Topic: 872 Message: 917

At 01:08 PM 7/18/2013, Tom Hayward wrote:

>I haven't used a Micro-Trak AIO, but I'll make some comments:
>- It looks like it doesn't have a receiver!

That is correct. It is a transmit-only APRS tracker.

>...and you may need to move to a secondary frequency to reduce the
>possibility of getting stomped on by some guy's D700 putting out 50W
>on 144.39 MHz.

Yes, that's a good idea. Bob Bruninga WB4APR has also described a method whereby very localized digipeaters are set up using a Kenwood TM-D700 or TM-D710 mobile radio that listens on 144.990 MHz and digipeats out on 144.390 MHz (you'll note that's the standard 2m repeater split). This allows your weak trackers, transmitting on 144.99, to be heard by a near-by digipeater, listening on 144.99 and transmitting on 144.39, but it gets the packets out on the larger-area APRS network, which operates on 144.39.

>- If you need a portable digipeater, it will need to be something
>other than a AIO, for example a D72 on a ridge. It may be difficult
>to change the path on the AIO, so plan your portable digipeaters accordingly.

Rather than a TH-D72 as a digipeater, I'd suggest a TM-D700 to TM-D710, in some sort of protective box, as previously mentioned. Or build up a portable digipeater using an Alinco DR-135T radio and an Argent Data T3-135 APRS device. I built a portable digi in this manner and put the radio along with some AGM batteries in a small lunch cooler. The digi was placed at the top of a fire tower. The antenna was a quarter-wave mag-mount stuck to a steel railing on the tower. The digi ran flawlessly for 72 hours in 10 degree weather during an orienteering event in the Hoosier National Forest. Note that the digi doesn't need to run full power.

>The other obvious all-in-one option in the Yaesu VX-8GR.

Not any more. Yaesu has discontinued the VX-8GR. Dealers are limited to stock on hand and several dealers are already out of stock. I own both a Kenwood TH-D72 and a VX-8GR and I prefer the Kenwood. But, the VX-8GR is a great all-in-one APRS tracker. I bought a second one when I heard they were discontinued so I now have two that I can loan out to folks who don't have APRS.

Bob...

918. SARTrack Update 0.9.557 with Statistical IPP/LKP/PLS ring system

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-07-26 20:06:49 UTC
From: sartracknz
Topic: 918 Message: 918

Hi All,

SARTrack (http://www.sartrack.co.nz) has been updated with a new feature.
Based on the International Search & Rescue Incident Database (ISRID) and the book 'Lost Person Behaviour' by Robert Koester, SARTrack can now display a Statistical Ring system, including (optional) Dispersion lines.

Have a look at the new document explaining the feature:
http://www.sartrack.co.nz/StatisticalRings.html

More info on SAR features are at:
http://www.sartrack.co.nz/SARFeatures.html

Give it a try, the software is free.

I really would like some fdeedback.

Thanks,

Bart Kindt
Developer

919. OSARA meeting

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-08-14 03:24:21 UTC
From: nvickroy63
Topic: 919 Message: 919

The Ohio Search and Rescue Association is holding its next meeting on August 31, 2013 at 10:00am. Please join us at The Ohio Fire Academy, 8895 East Main Street, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068. Add your voice to the association that is working to provide a voice for Search and Rescue in Ohio.

920. RE: SARTrack Update 0.9.557 with Statistical IPP/LKP/PLS ring system

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-09-26 13:41:05 UTC
From: <grant_southey@...>
Topic: 918 Message: 920

Great new feature - I will try it when I have time again.

Thanks for the great software and at this stage it is my software of choice, although I am still evaluating the options. Are there any other features that are "hidden". If it was not for this forum I would not have found the statistical rings feature.

---In sar_aprs@yahoogroups.com, <sarforums@...> wrote:

Hi All,

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Based on the International Search & Rescue Incident Database (ISRID) and the book 'Lost Person Behaviour' by Robert Koester, SARTrack can now display a Statistical Ring system, including (optional) Dispersion lines.

Have a look at the new document explaining the feature:
http://www.sartrack.co.nz/StatisticalRings.html

More info on SAR features are at:
http://www.sartrack.co.nz/SARFeatures.html

Give it a try, the software is free.

I really would like some fdeedback.

Thanks,

Bart Kindt
Developer

921. RE: RE: SARTrack Update 0.9.557 with Statistical IPP/LKP/PLS ring system

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-09-26 16:51:48 UTC
From: <sarforums@...>
Topic: 918 Message: 921

Hi,

If you use SARTrack, you should be on the "sartracknz" Yahoo forum, but if you are a SAR user, then you really should be on the special SARTrack-SAR mailing list. Send an email to info@sartrack.co.nz and I will put you on the list.
On this list specific SAR related issues can be discussed.

A massive amount of work is currently going into SARTrack, while the program is converted to use an SQL database Server system.
Once this is in place, a full SAR Management system will be added.

Thanks, Bart

---In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, <sar_aprs@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

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More info on SAR features are at:
http://www.sartrack.co.nz/SARFeatures.html

Give it a try, the software is free.

I really would like some fdeedback.

Thanks,

Bart Kindt
Developer

922. GPS Connection

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-10-23 16:16:07 UTC
From: <grant_southey@...>
Topic: 922 Message: 922

I have just finished making up a GPS module to connect to SAR Track and when I attempt to connect the GPS indication just goes yellow.

I tried looking at the Debug window to see what indication is given but it says that the GPS is connected. I have used GPS Visualizer to connect to the GPS and the location is valid and the NMEA strings are streaming. I am suspecting that either the NMEA string that is required is not being streamed or that there are not enough satellites to connect?
Any other ideas?

923. RE: RE: [SAR_APRS] Advise (Track with DTMF)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-10-23 16:18:46 UTC
From: <grant_southey@...>
Topic: 915 Message: 923

We use the MT-AIOs and they work very well. We have some instances where the position was a touch flaky but then so was any other GPS. It was in a gorge between to cliffs.

We are actually doing a exercise with them this weekend to track our operatives as well as the bbase station running SARTrack with a tinytrak4.

---In SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com, <sar_aprs@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Ø Wondering if any group have implemented APRS for real time tracking of searchers? We are looking at purchasing a couple Byonics AIO. Does any SAR group use these or is there something else that is being used?

If the teams are religiously following a SAR map with a SAR grid, they can also report their positions via 4 digits of DTMF to the nearest 100 feet or so. This is good enough to show a block that they have searched. It will not be as accurate as GPS for showing proof of coverage, but Every sar radio guy already has an HT with DTMF, so why not use it.

See http://aprs.org/aprstt.html http://aprs.org/aprstt.html

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Total cost is under $100 and each SAR search only needs one at the headquarters tent.

Bob, WB4aPR

924. Re: [SAR_APRS] Advise (Track with DTMF)

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-10-23 17:27:56 UTC
From: Major Allen R. Lord
Topic: 915 Message: 924

Bob is 100% on track (no pun intended) Also, an enormous number of AIO's are in use with SAR teams world-wide. The AIO like most decent , modern GPS receivers, use WAAS to improve position accuracy. Since WAAS beacons are ground-based, if you are in a canyon, or otherwise out of reach of WAAS, you circular error position probability is around 100 meters, worst case. (depends on how many satellites your device can see) With WAAS (which is good enough for the FAA to allow it for aircraft navigation) your CEP goes to about 9 Meters. As Bob suggests, you can APRS TT to identify your Grid, but if you are using a handheld GPS to arrive at your grid square conclusion, it will have as much accuracy as the AIO, i.e., without WAAS, it may be somewhat misleading. Good enough to vector in an aircraft, but not so much for calling in close fire artillery support (as a practical matter, I found out to my horror, that "close" does not actually count in Horseshoes, but does indeed count with hand-grenades: important safety tip) If you are going to ID your Grid square with with alpha/numeric's, I suggest using your compass and Map to triangulate your position from know landmarks, doubtless, there is a an IPhone or Droid app for that.

You may be able to tease the AIO into providing better position reports in marginal areas, and you can enter these Parameters in your secondary configuration to save battery life. First, change the configuration to "Send DAO" (its in the upper right hand side of the configuration screen) and secondly, disable "Power Switch Enable". This will keep the GPS awake all the time, which will eat batteries a bit faster, but may provide better accuracy, and more accurate tracks. This is important info for your matheamagicians who may be tasked with calculating the Probability Of Detection. If you happen to be standing on a known fixed position (Say on one of the heads on Mount Rushmore, or the bottom of Niagara falls) you might want to notify your base to see if your actual position coincides with your reported position, again, a factor for the mathies to factor when calculating CEP and POD.

73,

Allen AF6OF
Byonics/VHS
The Micro-Trak Guy

-----Original Message-----
From: grant_southey <grant_southey@...>
To: SAR_APRS <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Wed, Oct 23, 2013 9:18 am
Subject: RE: RE: [SAR_APRS] Advise (Track with DTMF)

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If the teams are religiously following a SAR map with a SAR grid, they can also report their positions via 4 digits of DTMF to the nearest 100 feet or so. This is good enough to show a block that they have searched. It will not be as accurate as GPS for showing proof of coverage, but Every sar radio guy already has an HT with DTMF, so why not use it.

See http://aprs.org/aprstt.html

Byonics makes a Tracker DTMF combo that receives the DTMF from uinits in the field and then converts it all to APRS so that everyone looking at the APRS tacktical map will also see the DTMF reports too.

Total cost is under $100 and each SAR search only needs one at the headquarters tent.

Bob, WB4aPR

925. RE: GPS Connection

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2013-10-23 22:10:58 UTC
From: <sarforums@...>
Topic: 922 Message: 925

SARTrack currently only accepts 4800 baud for the GPS port.

I will make this configurably in the next Update.

SARTrack will change the GPS tag to Yellow when it can open the COM port. Then it will turn to Green when it receives valid NMEA sentences, indication it is indeed connected to a GPS.

Please note that I am traveling with a caravan through northern Queensland, Australia at the moment, and will be occasionally out of phone/Internet range for a few days at the time.
I will be doing some small fixes and improvments on SARTrack in the meantime, and try to get an Update out in a week or so.

Thanks, Bart

---In sar_aprs@yahoogroups.com, <grant_southey@...> wrote:

I have just finished making up a GPS module to connect to SAR Track and when I attempt to connect the GPS indication just goes yellow.

926. Dmapper and Terrain Navigator Pro

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2015-04-24 13:42:35 UTC
From: Jennifer Johnson
Topic: 926 Message: 926

Hello,

I'm with the local county search and rescue team. We are trying to implement APRS into our search activities. Can anyone help walk me through setting up dmapper with Terrain Navigator Pro? Any advice would be much appreciated.

927. Re: Dmapper and Terrain Navigator Pro

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2015-04-29 22:46:30 UTC
From: sarforums@...
Topic: 926 Message: 927

May I suggest you try the SARTrack software for Search and Rescue.
It works with APRS, but it can also decode commercial radios with GPS build-in, Kenwood, Icom and Tait. And it decodes AIS shipping data. And it distributes all this data to all other connected SARTrack computers, via a special database OR via the APRS network.
And, it now has a full Management system (People, Teams, Equipment etc) in full development.
The software is completely free.

SARTrack Radio Tracking for Search and Rescue http://www.sartrack.co.nz/

http://www.sartrack.co.nz/

SARTrack Radio Tracking for Search and Rescue http://www.sartrack.co.nz/ Radio Tracking

View on www.sartrack.co.nz http://www.sartrack.co.nz/
Preview by Yahoo

Bart Kindt
Developer

928. APRS with terrain navigator pro?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2015-06-23 17:48:49 UTC
From: k9greta@...
Topic: 928 Message: 928

Has anyone got APRS to work with terrain navigator pro? I have been told it won't work. Any help would be great.
Chris
N1GBB

929. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS with terrain navigator pro?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2015-06-23 17:59:12 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 928 Message: 929

http://wetnet.net/~we7u/search_and_rescue.html

Read about DMapper

On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 10:48 AM, k9greta@... [SAR_APRS] <
SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Has anyone got APRS to work with terrain navigator pro? I have been told
> it won't work. Any help would be great.
>
> Chris
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> N1GBB
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Curt, WE7U

930. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS with terrain navigator pro?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2015-06-23 18:34:52 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 928 Message: 930

Note: I'm a Linux guy so I've not actually played with this myself, but I know that several people have used it in the past successfully.

On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 10:59 AM, Curt Mills <curt.we7u@...> wrote:

> http://wetnet.net/~we7u/search_and_rescue.html
>
> Read about DMapper
>
>
> On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 10:48 AM, k9greta@... [SAR_APRS] <
> SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
>>
>>
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> Curt, WE7U
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Curt, WE7U

931. APRS with low-cost weather stations

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2015-06-23 20:20:39 UTC
From: bobsayers2000
Topic: 931 Message: 931

Have any of you had any experience of using non-Peet and non-Davis weather stations with APRS? I'm wondering whether any of the lower-cost stations with data outputs but which don't mention their data protocol might actually be compatible, or could be made so?

I've been given a fairly comprehensive wireless station (in the UK, from Maplin, a major electronics retailer) which has a USB data output but gives no clues as to format.

Has anyone ever considered an Arduino or Raspberry Pi to convert format?

Bob, G8IYK

-------- Original message --------
From: "Curt Mills curt.we7u@gmail.com [SAR_APRS]" <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
Date: 2015/06/23 19:34 (GMT+00:00)
To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS with terrain navigator pro?

Note: I'm a Linux guy so I've not actually played with this myself, but I know that several people have used it in the past successfully.

On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 10:59 AM, Curt Mills <curt.we7u@gmail.com> wrote:
http://wetnet.net/~we7u/search_and_rescue.html

Read about DMapper

On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 10:48 AM, k9greta@yahoo.com [SAR_APRS] <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Has anyone got APRS to work with terrain navigator pro? I have been told it won't work. Any help would be great.

Chris

N1GBB

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Curt, WE7U

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Curt, WE7U

932. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS with low-cost weather stations

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2015-06-23 20:53:22 UTC
From: Curt Mills
Topic: 931 Message: 932

Check out the weather stations from Argentdata.com. If pieces break, you can order just those pieces to fix it. They are designed for APRS. That's Scott Miller's company, the OpenTracker guy.

On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 1:20 PM, bobsayers2000 bobsayers2000@... [SAR_APRS] <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
>
> Have any of you had any experience of using non-Peet and non-Davis weather
> stations with APRS? I'm wondering whether any of the lower-cost stations
> with data outputs but which don't mention their data protocol might
> actually be compatible, or could be made so?
>
> I've been given a fairly comprehensive wireless station (in the UK, from
> Maplin, a major electronics retailer) which has a USB data output but gives
> no clues as to format.
>
> Has anyone ever considered an Arduino or Raspberry Pi to convert format?
>
> Bob, G8IYK
>
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>
> -------- Original message --------
> From: "Curt Mills curt.we7u@... [SAR_APRS]" <
> SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
> Date: 2015/06/23 19:34 (GMT+00:00)
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS with terrain navigator pro?
>
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>
> Note: I'm a Linux guy so I've not actually played with this myself, but I
> know that several people have used it in the past successfully.
>
> On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 10:59 AM, Curt Mills <curt.we7u@...> wrote:
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>> http://wetnet.net/~we7u/search_and_rescue.html
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>> Read about DMapper
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>> On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 10:48 AM, k9greta@... [SAR_APRS] <
>> SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
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>>> Has anyone got APRS to work with terrain navigator pro? I have been
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Curt, WE7U

933. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS with low-cost weather stations

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2015-06-23 21:01:07 UTC
From: Scott Miller
Topic: 931 Message: 933

We're out of stock for at least another week. Got a container due in to Long Beach on the 27th and we'll have them up here around the end of the month.

Scott
N1VG

On 6/23/2015 1:53 PM, Curt Mills curt.we7u@... [SAR_APRS] wrote:
>
>
> Check out the weather stations from Argentdata.com. If pieces break,
> you can order just those pieces to fix it. They are designed for APRS.
> That's Scott Miller's company, the OpenTracker guy.
>
> On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 1:20 PM, bobsayers2000 bobsayers2000@...
> <mailto:bobsayers2000@...> [SAR_APRS] <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> <mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>> wrote:
>
>
>
> Have any of you had any experience of using non-Peet and non-Davis
> weather stations with APRS? I'm wondering whether any of the
> lower-cost stations with data outputs but which don't mention their
> data protocol might actually be compatible, or could be made so?
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> I've been given a fairly comprehensive wireless station (in the UK,
> from Maplin, a major electronics retailer) which has a USB data
> output but gives no clues as to format.
>
> Has anyone ever considered an Arduino or Raspberry Pi to convert format?
>
> Bob, G8IYK
>
>
>
>
> -------- Original message --------
> From: "Curt Mills curt.we7u@... <mailto:curt.we7u@...>
> [SAR_APRS]" <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> <mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>>
> Date: 2015/06/23 19:34 (GMT+00:00)
> To: SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com <mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>
> Subject: Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS with terrain navigator pro?
>
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> Note: I'm a Linux guy so I've not actually played with this myself,
> but I know that several people have used it in the past successfully.
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> On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 10:59 AM, Curt Mills <curt.we7u@...
> <mailto:curt.we7u@...>> wrote:
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> http://wetnet.net/~we7u/search_and_rescue.html
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> On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 10:48 AM, k9greta@...
> <mailto:k9greta@...> [SAR_APRS] <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com
> <mailto:SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com>> wrote:
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934. Re: [SAR_APRS] APRS with terrain navigator pro?

Yahoo group: SAR_APRS
Date: 2015-06-24 00:22:41 UTC
From: Dave Roadfacts
Topic: 928 Message: 934

Curt,
FYI if you are still updating your page. I have released a new version 3 for Dmapper that works on newer Windows operating systems. Last update was in 2014 and this new version includes support for KISS devices.

Below is a link to the page showing changes from the old version 2.
http://www.roadfacts.com/software/dmapper/dmapper3.htm

Thanks for the mention.
Dave W7PDQ
www.dmapper.com

Sent from my iPad

> On Jun 23, 2015, at 11:34 AM, Curt Mills curt.we7u@... [SAR_APRS] <SAR_APRS@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
>
>
> Note: I'm a Linux guy so I've not actually played with this myself, but I know that several people have used it in the past successfully.
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>> On Tue, Jun 23, 2015 at 10:59 AM, Curt Mills <curt.we7u@...> wrote:
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